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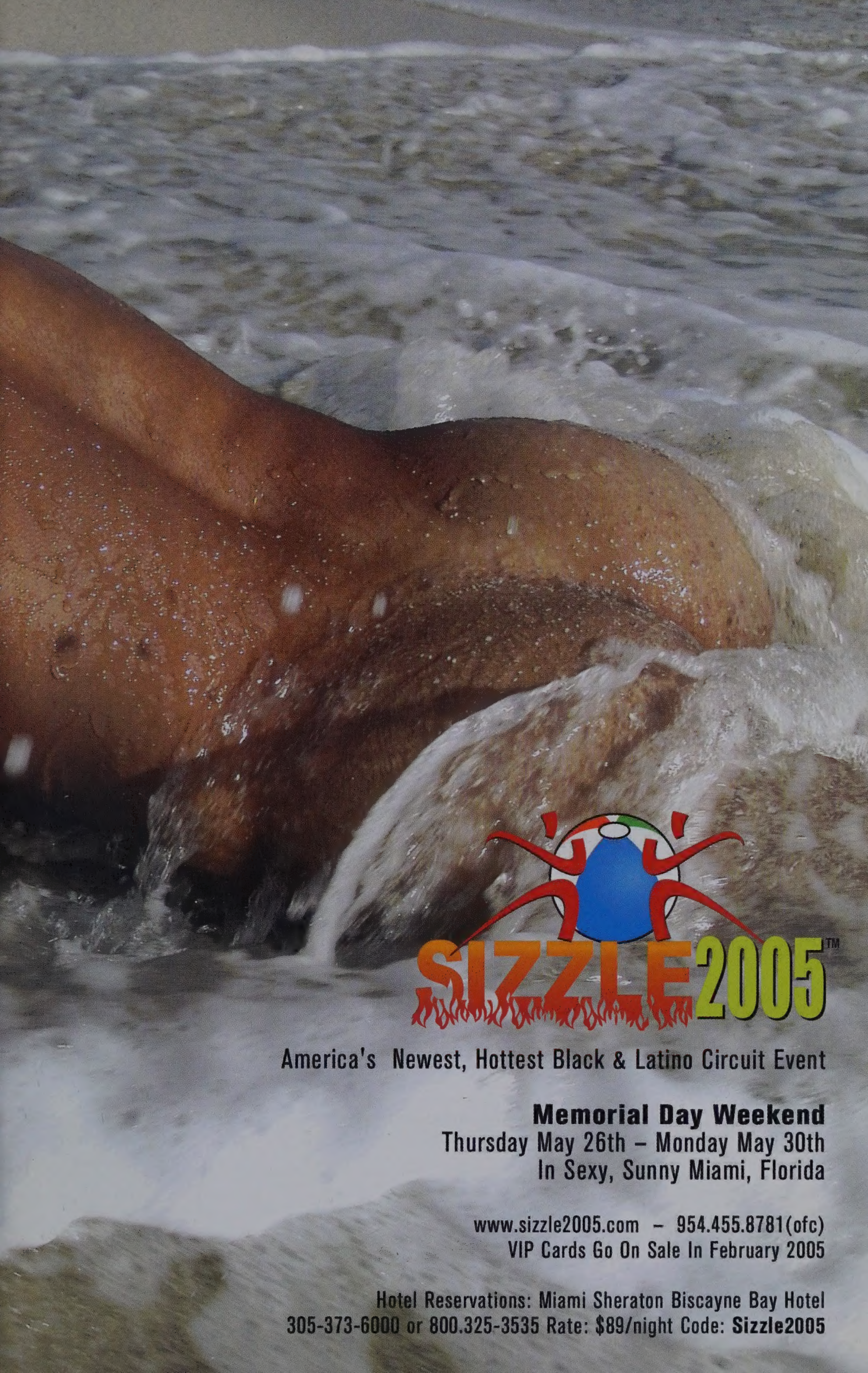

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GUEST EDITORIAL

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON, PACIFIC NEWS SERVICE

King v. King

Where Would Martin Luther King Jr Have Stood On Gay Rights?

A recent march organized in part against gay marriage by a black church in Atlanta, Ga., and prominently attended by a daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. sullied King's legacy. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a political analyst and the author of "The Crisis in Black and Black"

The sight of the youngest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. standing at her father's gravesite with thousands of demonstrators to denounce gay marriage was painful. The Rev. Bernice King and march organizers deliberately chose King's resting place in Atlanta to imply that he would have stood with them. But Martin Luther King's uncompromising battle against discrimination during his life -- and his persistent refusal to distance himself from a well-known gay civil rights leader -- show that King never would have endorsed an anti-gay campaign.

It's not the first time that a King family member has sullied King's name and legacy to torpedo gay rights. In 1998, King's niece, Alveda King, barnstormed the country speaking at rallies against gay rights legislation. In case anyone missed the King family connection, her group was named, "King for America." Gay rights groups everywhere countered King's "repent and save yourself" message to gays by quoting a public statement Coretta Scott King issued in 1996 in which she said that King would be a champion of gay rights if he were alive.

In this case, King's daughter was careful not to mention gay marriage in her talk. Her mentor and march organizer, Bishop Eddie Long, cautiously downplayed the issue, though media reported that Long's Web site listed promoting a federal amendment against gay marriage as a major goal of the march. But Bernice King is an outspoken evangelical, and in the last couple of years she and other black evangelicals have marched, protested, written letters and petitions denouncing gay marriage. Polls show that black evangelicals' hostility to gay marriage is much stronger than that of white evangelicals.

In King's day, gay rights were invisible on America's public policy radar, and homosexuality in both black and white communities was hushed up. There's not a word about homosexuality in any of King's speeches or writings.

There's a way, however, to gauge what King's feelings were on the issue, and that is the longtime personal and political relationship that King had with Bayard Rustin. Best known as the driving force behind the historic 1963 March on Washington, Rustin was a close King associate and a known homosexual.

In 1953, Rustin was convicted of "morals" charges. In the frozen mood of that day, that was the parlance for homosexual acts. It carried a quick and sometimes stiff jail term. King knew this, as did top FBI officials, black elected officials, civil rights leaders and the tight circle of black ministers around King.

That didn't deter King from embracing Rustin. At the high point of the Montgomery bus boycott in 1956 that launched King into the national spotlight, and over the vehement opposition of black ministers who called homosexuals and Rustin unsavory and evil, King invited Rustin to come to Montgomery as an advisor. A year later, King asked Rustin to draft the resolutions and the organizational charter of his fledging Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He demanded that the SCLC board, mostly composed of black ministers, hire Rustin as its coordinator and publicist. King didn't win that one. The board flatly turned him down, and though it was unstated, Rustin's homosexuality was a major reason.

The issue continued to dog King and his relationship with Rustin. Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell publicly threatened to accuse King of having a homosexual affair with Rustin if he didn't call off planned demonstrations at the 1960 Democratic convention. King didn't buckle to Powell's blackmail threat and went ahead with the demonstrations anyway.

During the next few years, the assault on Rustin's homosexuality, and the pressure on King to dump him, escalated. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, busy with his blatantly illegal spy campaign against King, publicly released wiretaps of scurrilous remarks King associates made about Rustin's homosexuality. On the eve of the March on Washington in 1963, South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond denounced Rustin on the Senate floor as a sexual pervert, and inserted a copy of his 1953 arrest booking slip in the Congressional Record. The President Kennedy and Attorney General Bobby Kennedy also flatly demanded that King get rid of him. King did not publicly break with Rustin. And when he did eventually distance himself politically from Rustin, he gave no public hint that his homosexuality was an issue.

King risked much to work with and defend Rustin during the tumultuous battles of the civil rights era. He valued him as an ally and a major player in the struggle. He also believed that deeply embodied in the civil rights fight was a person's right to be whom and what he was. While King may have praised his daughter for having the courage and conviction to march for her beliefs, bigotry is still bigotry, whether it's about race or sexual preference. He would not have marched by her side.

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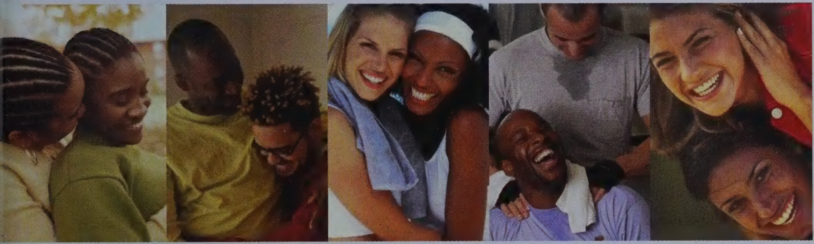

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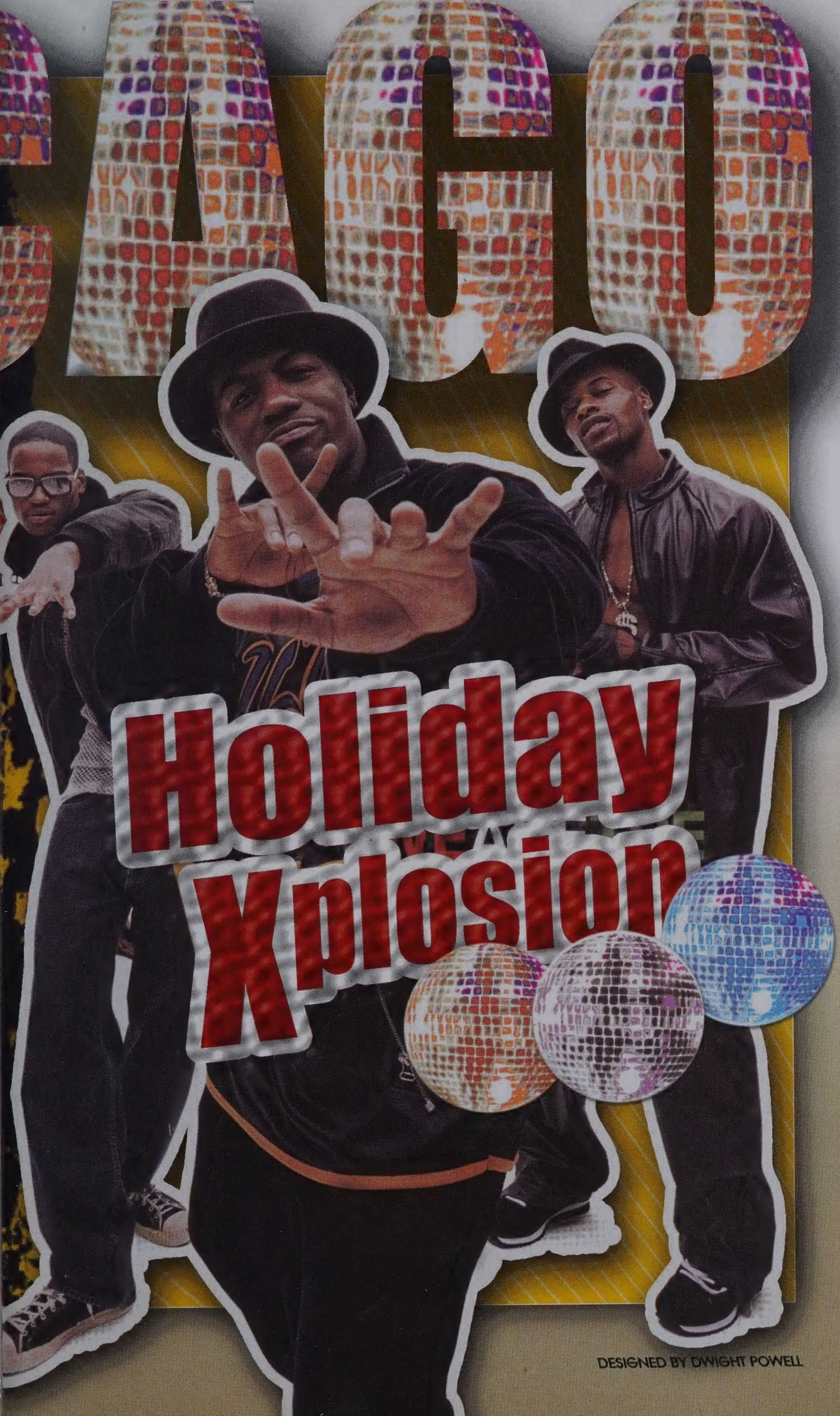
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Editor in Chief / Publisher **Dwight Powell**
dwight@clikque.com

HIV/AIDS Editor **Don Sneed**
Sr. Staff Writer **Craig Washington**
Sr. Staff Writer **Scott Bogan**
Art Direction **Dwight Powell**
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www.clikque.com
Clikque1@aol.com

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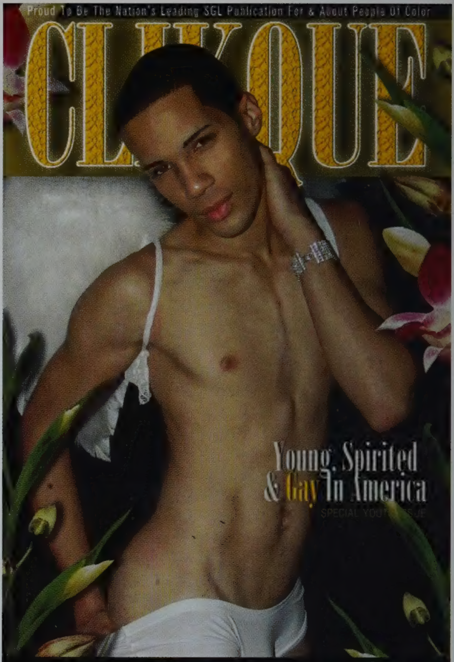
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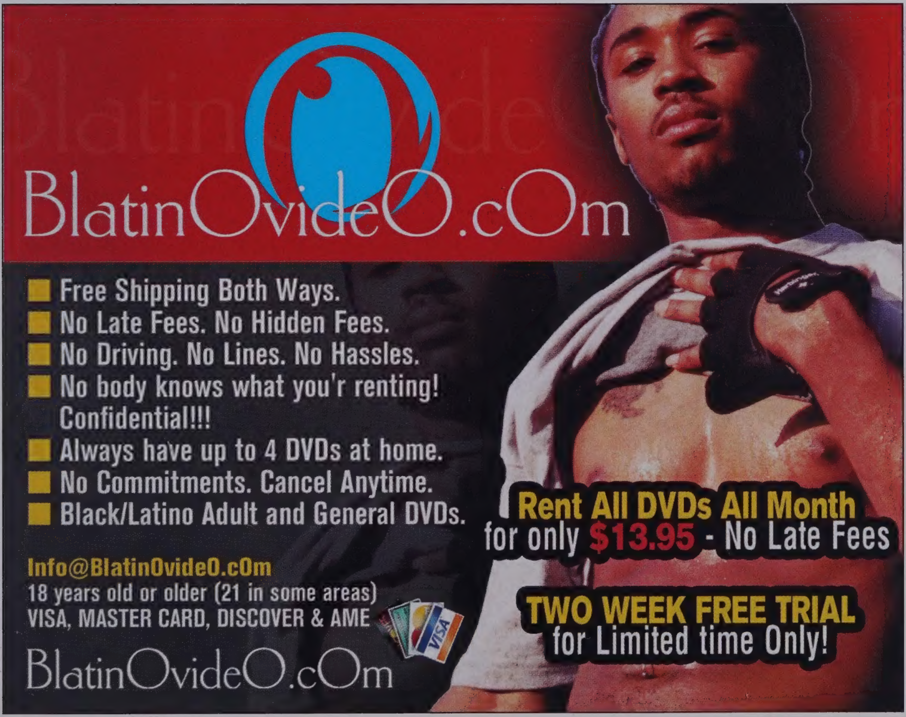

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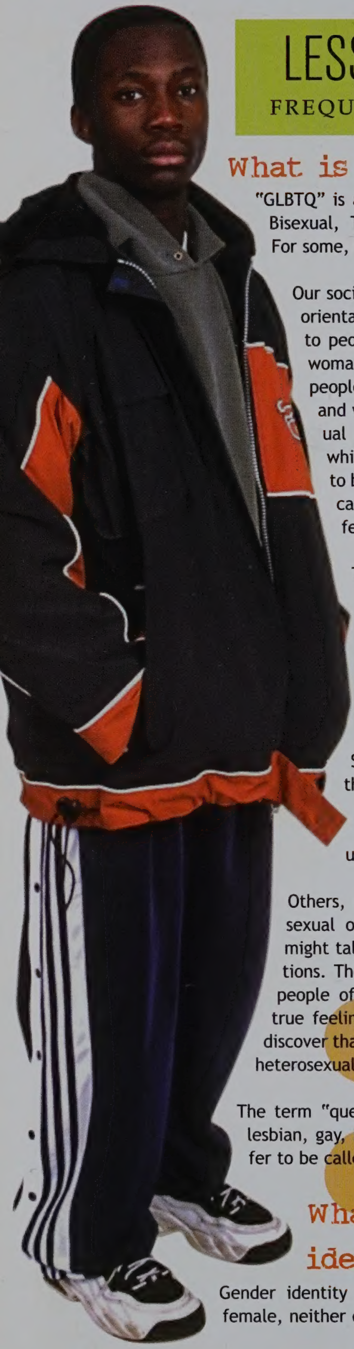


LESSON 2: GAY 101

FREQUANTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY YOUNG PEOPLE

What is GLBTQ?

"GLBTQ" is an abbreviation for "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Questioning." For some, the Q stands for "Queer."

Our society has three categories for sexual orientation. Heterosexuals are attracted to people of a different gender (man to woman). Homosexuals are attracted to people of the same gender (man to man and woman to woman). Some homosexual men prefer to be called "gay," while some homosexual women prefer to be called "lesbian." Bisexual people can feel attracted to both males and females.

Transgender people feel that their sexual body parts (penis, vulva, testicles) don't match their personality and feelings inside. So, a transgender guy, for example, has a penis but wants to act and be treated like a girl.

Some people are real clear about their sexual orientation. They know early on in their life that they're heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or transgender.

Others, though, feel confused about their sexual orientation. To figure it out, they might talk to people with different orientations. They might experiment sexually with people of different genders. In time, their true feelings usually become clear and they discover that they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual.

The term "queer" can apply to someone who is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Some prefer to be called "queer." Others don't.

What is gender identity?

Gender identity means our sense of being male, female, neither or a little bit of both. It's different from sexual orientation, which is about who we're attracted to sexually and romantically.

Gender identity comes from the inside out. That means that even though you might have female body parts - a vulva, vagina and ovaries - you might not feel feminine. Most people do, but not everyone. Same goes for a guy who has a penis and testicles, but doesn't feel masculine.

People who believe their gender - the feelings they have inside -- are different from their body parts may identify themselves as transgender.

How do you know if you're lesbian, gay, bisexual, or heterosexual? Some people know from a young age. Others think they know and then discover differently as they get older. Still others are confused and explore different relationships to figure it out.

Take your time. Don't push yourself to commit to an identity or label. Feel what you feel, and know that whoever you are attracted to, you are completely normal. You'll know when it's time to attach a name to your feelings.

I feel I'm homosexual and don't want to be. Can I change my sexual orientation?

Basically, your sexual orientation is something that is part of you - just like the color of your eyes and the shape of your nose. So, in general, no, you can't change your sexual orientation.

Some conservative and religious groups claim people can change their sexual orientation through prayer or therapy. But this just isn't true. People might change their sexual behavior. Maybe they start having sex with a member of a different gender. Or, they might stop having sex altogether. But, that doesn't change their inner feelings of who they find attractive.

In other cases, people's understanding of their sexual orientation changes. Our society generally accepts being heterosexual as "normal." That puts a lot of pressure on lesbian, gay and bisexual people to suppress their true feelings and try to fit in. It seems easier, even if it means being someone you're not. A lot of times, though, people realize they can't pretend for their whole life. So, they come out. They haven't "become" lesbian, gay or bisexual. They've just accepted who they are.

Can you tell if someone is LGBTQ or heterosexual?

No, not for sure, unless that person tells you.

Lots of times, we judge people based on stereotypes. So, we assume, for example, that a gay man is going to walk and talk like a woman and a lesbian is going to act like a guy. But that's not always true.

A guy who hates sports, but loves to cook can be heterosexual. And, a big, burly football quarterback could be homosexual. You just don't know.

Sure, stereotypes are rooted in truth. Some gay men do act feminine. And plenty of football quarterbacks are heterosexual. But, there's a danger in applying stereotypes to everyone in a particular group because many people don't fit the stereotype. Everyone is an individual. And we'd all be better off if people treated each other with respect, deciding whether they like someone based on who they are, not whether they fit into a stereotype.

Does bisexuality mean you'll have sex with anyone?

No, it doesn't. A bisexual person can be attracted to both a guy and a girl, but not EVERY guy and girl.

Heterosexual person choose partners based on looks, personality, values and a whole bunch of other factors. The same's true with bisexual people. It just doesn't matter as much to a bisexual person whether their partner is female or male. It also doesn't mean that a bisexual person has to have two partners at the same time, one male and one female.

Bisexuality is often misunderstood. People often think that someone who is bisexual is confused or unwilling to commit to being lesbian, gay or heterosexual. That's just not true. Someone who is bisexual can fall in love with a person, regardless of gender.

GAY 101 CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

YOUTH**FACTS**

- It is estimated that in the U.S., a teen takes their own life every 5 hours because they are gay, bisexual, transgender, or lesbian, and cannot deal with the added stresses that society puts upon them.
- Several studies have found that approximately 40% of homeless "street" teens self-identify as gay/lesbian
- Gay youth are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than non-gay teens, according to a 1989 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study
- The same study found that 30 percent of successful teen suicides are by gay or lesbian youths
- In 1997, gay youth were attacked at alarmingly high rates nationwide
- Queer youth are more likely to be attacked physically
- Queer youth are at increased risk for drug/alcohol problems and dropping out of school
- An estimated 40% of street kids are lesbian or gay. These youth have either run away or been thrown out of their homes. Many get involved withprostitution and other abusive behaviors as a way of surviving
- Many bisexual, gay and lesbian youth drop out of school due to harassment or low self-esteem, and fear of "being found out."
- Studies have found that more than 25% of gay and lesbian youth have severe drug and alcohol problems.
- Those who believe they don't know someone who is gay are more likely than those who do to vote against equal rights for gay people.
- Early exposure to diversity and sexuality issues helps to reduce prejudice and homophobia
- Teenagers and young adults are among the leading perpetrators of anti-gay violence.

GAY 101 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

I'm a guy, but inside I feel like a girl. Help!

Most people have body parts that are consistent with who they feel they are inside. That means a person with a penis and testicles usually feels inside that he's male and wants to look and act like a guy. The same is true for a person with a vulva, vagina, and ovaries, who usually feels inside that she is female. But some people have body parts that don't match the way they feel inside. So, a transgender woman, for example, has a penis but inside feels like a woman. She wants to act and be treated like a woman. That's called being a Male to Female transgender or "MTF transgender."

What is homophobia?

Homophobia is the fear or dislike of people who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual. When this fear and dislike is directed at bisexual people, it's called biphobia. When people fear or dislike heterosexual people, it is called heterophobia. And when people fear or dislike transgender people, it is called transphobia.

Here are some ways these phobias can turn ugly:

- ✓ Calling a guy a "fag"
- ✓ Writing insults on the locker of a girl who the rumor mill says is bisexual
- ✓ Forcing a guy to have sex with a girl to prove he's not gay.
- ✓ Raping a girl who identifies as lesbian to "turn her" heterosexual.
- ✓ Stripping a transgender person to reveal that person's genitals and challenge their identity.
- ✓ Hitting or hurting someone because she or he is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

This type of behavior is always wrong. No one has the right to hurt any person, either emotionally or physically. And no one should be discriminated against based on their race, gender, age, physical abilities - or their sexual orientation.

What is "gay pride?"

Lots of times we only talk about how hard it is to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBTQ). But, it can also be great.

When you understand your sexual orientation at a young age, feel safe in telling friends and family members and feel proud of who you are, there can be a huge sense of empowerment.

LGBTQ people, just as people of other groups, have developed their own community and a culture. For many LGBTQ people of all ages, being a member of any of these communities can make them feel like they belong.

This sense of community is often called "gay pride." It applies to gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. When it refers to transgender people, it may be referred to as trans pride. As more and more transgender people are finding each other, they are building their own community, and with it, their own sense of pride in being who they are.

So while there are many challenges for LGBTQ people, there are also many wonderful things. Everyone should be able to express and celebrate who they are!

I feel that I'm gay. Should I tell my parents? How do you think they'll react?

This is a tough decision to make and, ultimately, only you will know if and when you should tell your parents. But Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), an organization with chapters all over the United States, offers some tips.

PFLAG says many gay and lesbian teens that come out to their parents feel closer to them afterward because the relationship is more honest. They feel relieved not to be keeping so huge a secret anymore.

But, sometimes, parents aren't so understanding. They force their teens to leave home. Some get abusive. And some family relationships are never the same.

Before you come out to your parents, think about a few things.

- ✓ How do your parents react to gay people in general? Listen to what they say about lesbian, gay, and bisexual people and ask some indirect questions.

- ✓ Do they have any lesbian or gay friends?

- ✓ Do they read books or go to movies that include same-sex relationships?

- ✓ Does their religion accept lesbian and gay people?

- ✓ Have you heard them say negative things about lesbian and gay people?

And think about your relationship with your parents.

- ✓ Do they show love for you even when they're mad at you?

- ✓ Are they supportive of you, even when you do things they don't like?

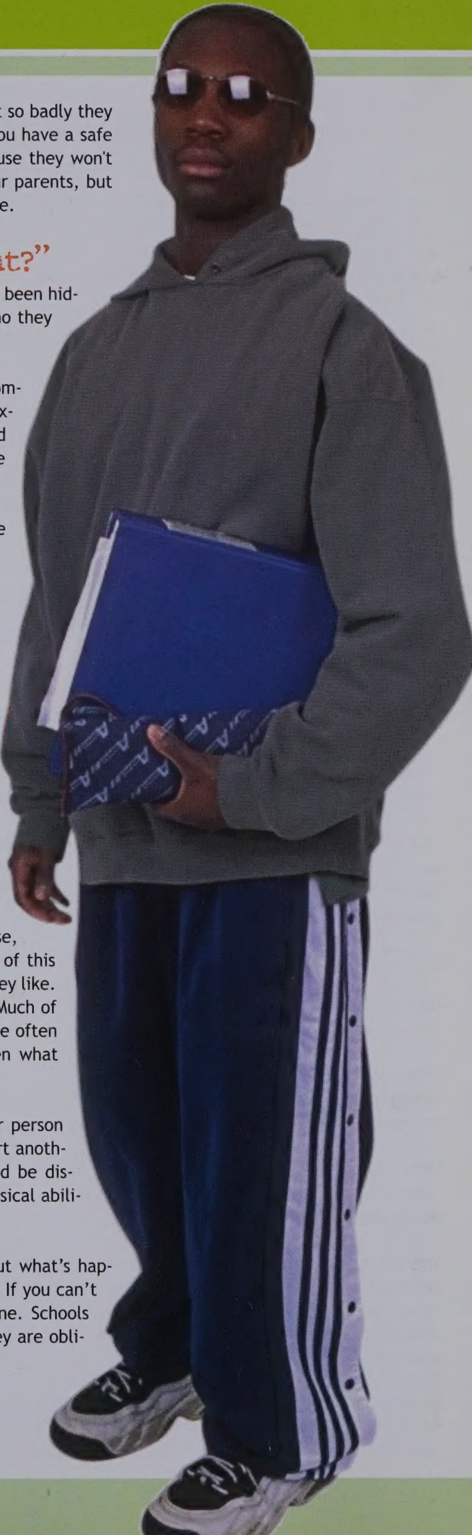
Honestly answering these questions should help you gauge your parents' reaction to telling them you're gay. If you think they will take it so badly they might throw you out of the house, then don't tell them until you have a safe place to stay. You might even decide never to tell them because they won't understand. Trust your gut. It's normal to be scared to tell your parents, but if you're terrified, then hold off until you feel more comfortable.

What does it mean to "come out?"

"Coming out" is when gay, lesbian or bisexual people, who have been hiding their true sexuality, tell friends and/or family members who they really are.

The first few times a person does this are the toughest. But, coming out is really a lifelong process. Each time gay, lesbian or bisexual people meet someone new, they have to decide if, when and how to tell the person who they are. And that's scary, because many people react badly to people who are not heterosexual.

But, coming out can also be liberating and exciting because you're finally being true to yourself.



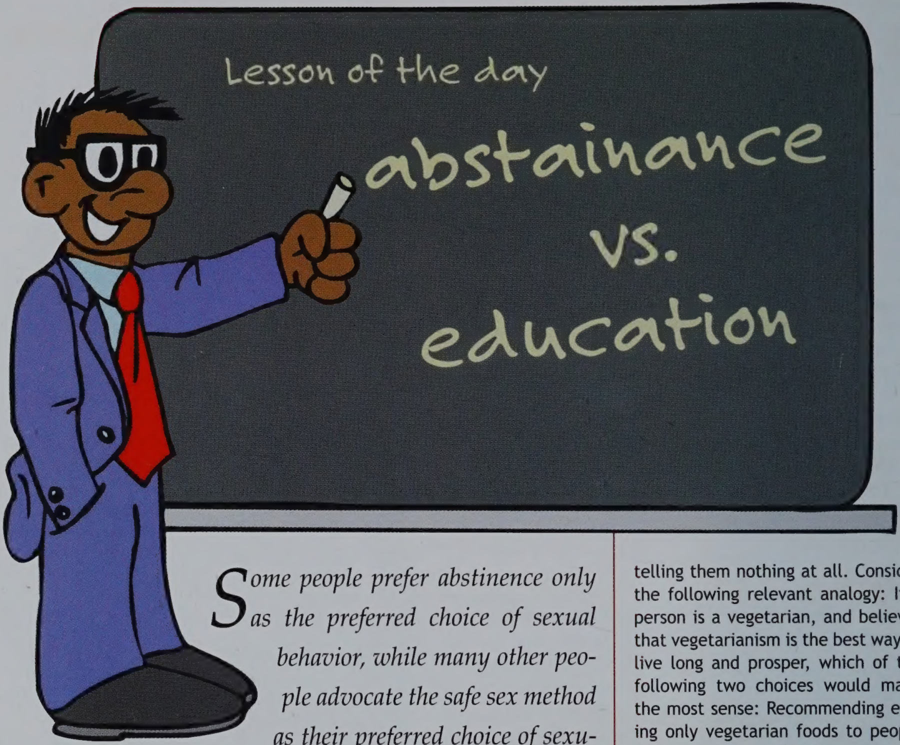
I'm gay and have been harassed in school. What can I do?

In a perfect world, people would accept other people for who they are. But the reality is that many people view lesbian, gay, and bisexual people as "deviant" or "wrong." They think heterosexuality is the only legitimate sexual orientation. And this has been going on for a long time. Up until 1973, homosexuality was considered a psychological disorder by the American Psychiatric Association.

This social attitude means that lots of gay teens like you get harassed. They deal with daily taunting in the hallways. Or, worse, they get beat up and suffer other kinds of violence. (Because of this harassment, many gay teens are scared to approach someone they like. And they have a higher suicide rate than heterosexual teens.) Much of this totally unacceptable behavior comes out of fear. People are often afraid of things they don't understand or things that threaten what they see as "right" or "normal."

No matter the reason, it's never OK to harass or hurt another person simply because of who he or she is. No one has the right to hurt another person, either emotionally or physically. And no one should be discriminated against because of his or her race, gender, age, physical abilities—or sexual orientation.

If you can, talk to your parents or another trusted adult about what's happening at school. Maybe they'll talk with your school principal. If you can't go to your parents, then you should talk to the principal alone. Schools have an obligation to provide a safe place for all students. They are obligated under law to stop the harassment.



Lesson of the day

abstainance vs. education

Some people prefer abstinence only as the preferred choice of sexual behavior, while many other people advocate the safe sex method as their preferred choice of sexual behavior. Advocates of abstinence only teaching in public schools would like to prohibit school districts from distributing condoms or other contraceptives to students. Further, they prefer that it should be stressed to students that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective way to prevent pregnancy and venereal diseases. Advocates of the safe sex method prefer that students be taught all forms of safe sex and birth control, without an emphasis on abstinence.

While abstinence is definitely the best way to avoid pregnancy and venereal disease, the teaching of abstinence only in public schools would not deter young people from having sex any more than abstinence only teaching regarding illegal drug use has prevented young people from consuming drugs. Of course, young people should be discouraged from taking illegal drugs, but in spite of a massive effort on the part the federal government, famous athletes, church groups etc., illegal drug use is widespread in schools across the United States. Since millions of young people would have sex even if abstinence only were taught in public schools, it is much more sensible to inform them what the best methods are of preventing pregnancy and venereal disease than telling them nothing at all. Consider the following relevant analogy: If a person is a vegetarian, and believes that vegetarianism is the best way to live long and prosper, which of the following two choices would make the most sense: Recommending eating only vegetarian foods to people who eat animal foods, or recommending that people who insist on continuing to eat animal foods eat animal foods in moderation and animal foods that are low in saturated fat? Of course, the latter recommendation would be much more preferable to the first recommendation. An all or nothing approach is clearly nonsense, whether we are talking about sex, dietary practices, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol etc. We need to meet people where they are, not only where we want them to be.

Many advocates of abstinence only are poorly informed about the possibility of microscopic holes in condoms that would allow the transmission of semen through the holes and the breakage rate of condoms as well. The following excerpts are taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Prevention Training Bulletin, January

28, 1993. "The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a study in the July-August 1992 issue of 'STD' which examined whether HIV-sized glass beads could be forced through latex condoms under stressful conditions. These conditions included higher concentrations of the 'virus' (glass beads) than in semen, a fluid that doesn't stick together as much as semen, and forces that simulated 10 minutes of thrusting after ejaculation. Most latex condoms leaked absolutely nothing. The worst condom found would still reduce exposure risk by 10,000 fold, i.e., only 1 HIV virus might 'leak' through only 1 of every 90 condoms. Other tests have shown that under 'normal' conditions, HIV does not pass through a latex condom that is not torn or broken." "Studies in other countries of breakage caused by defects in the condom itself show a breakage rate ranging from 0% to 7%. In the United States, most studies show the breakage rate is less than 2 out of every 100 condoms, probably less than 1 out of every 100."

The following excerpts are taken from a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Prevention Training Bulletin, July 1, 1992. "The reports of holes in latex appear to have originated form an article in Science Magazine about latex gloves, not condoms. Holes as large as 5 microns in diameter were evidently identified in latex used in gloves. However, gloves are only dipped in latex once when they are made. Condoms are dipped twice in latex. Gloves are allowed to fail the water leak test at a rate of 40 per thousand, while condoms are only allowed 4 failures of the water leak test per thousand condoms before the entire batch is rejected. While holes large enough for HIV to pass through have been found in natural membrane condoms, latex condoms do not allow the HIV to pass through the condom unless the condom has been damaged or torn."

Some people will be quick to mention that the failure rate of condoms is more frequent when they are not used properly. That is true, but it can also be said that automobile accidents are more frequent when automobiles are not driven properly. The most sensible thing to do regarding condom use and driving automobiles is to teach people how to use condoms effectively and how to drive effectively, not tell people not to use condoms and not to drive automobiles. It is important to note that many people are as unwilling to give up sex as they are unwilling to give up driving automobiles.

SMOKE & MIRRORS CONTINUES ON PAGE <None>

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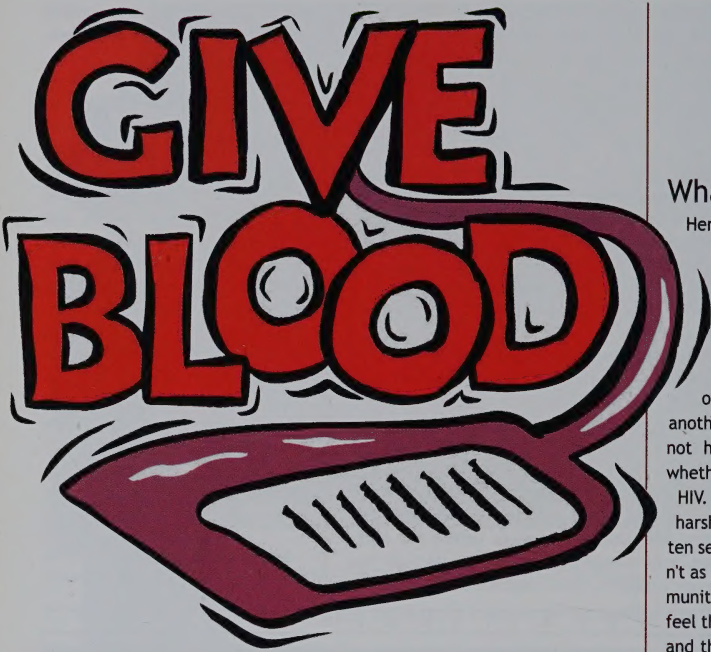


Why Donate Blood?

Every two seconds, someone in the United States is in need of donated blood1. About 4 million Americans receive blood each year2. Donating blood is a simple, relatively painless procedure that requires a small time commitment. If you can donate blood, you'll be able to help people you don't even know.

Who Can Donate Blood?

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) sets guidelines for blood banks, like the Red Cross on who is eligible to donate blood. Blood donors must be in good health. They must weigh at least 110lbs. They must either be 18 years old, or have parental permission if over 16. Those who are taking "over the counter" medication like cold medicine, or Tylenol, are still eligible. Those who have gotten a hepatitis B vaccine are still eligible.

Some individuals who are at higher risk for HIV infection, are asked not to donate blood, including intravenous drug users, and commercial sex workers. This is one of several steps that blood banks take to make sure no HIV+ blood is donated. Blood banks also use:

> Unit Exclusion: Before giving blood, donors place one of two stickers on their donor registration cards. One sticker means that the blood should be used, the other that it should not. This is so that donors who feel they may be at risk of HIV infection can stop their blood from being used for a transfusion, without embarrassment.
>
> Antibody Testing: The Red Cross tests a sample of every blood donation for antibodies to HIV-1 and HIV-2. This does not mean you should use blood donation as a way to find out your HIV status.

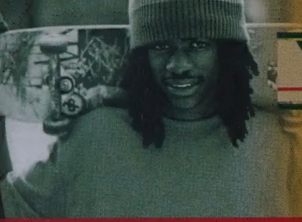
What if I'm Gay or Bi?

Here's the deal ::shrug:: If you've had sex with another guy since 1977 (which I'm well aware, is before most of you were born) then you're currently not eligible to donate blood. Blood bank volunteers screen out every guy who's had sex with another guy regardless of whether or not he's engaged in safer sex, or whether or not he's been tested for HIV. I know this sounds kind of harsh. These guidelines were written several years ago, when HIV wasn't as prevalent in heterosexual communities as it is now. Some people feel these guidelines are out of date, and the FDA may be reviewing them soon.

Sometimes it may feel like just because you're young and queer, that people expect you to become HIV+. Remember, it's your life. It's your decision. Protect yourself, and don't let things like this bring you down.

What if I'm not "out" at school?

So the blood drive is starting at your high school. How are you going to explain to your friends why you can't donate blood? Well, there isn't an easy answer to this question. Deciding how visible you want to be at school is a personal decision. But remember there are lots of reasons why people can't donate blood, and you don't have to "out" yourself over this if you don't want to. Other common reasons why people can't donate blood include recently having a cold or flu, or having low iron in their blood.



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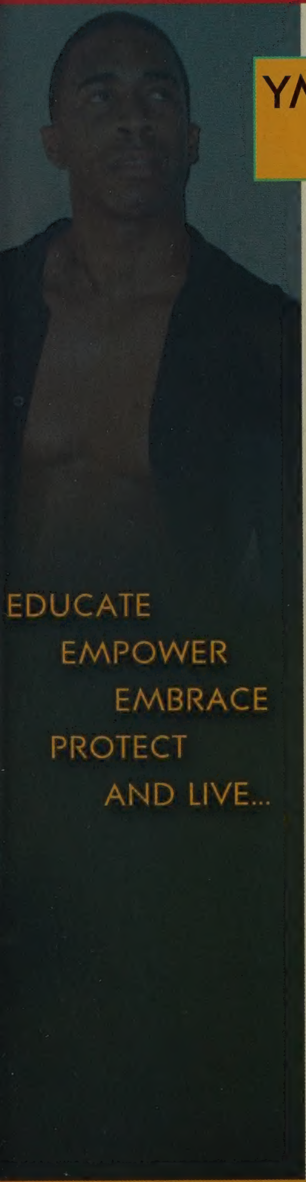

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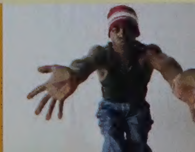

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but be sure to register for Selective Service.

Registration with the United States Selective Service is required of all male citizens and permanent residents within 30 days of turning eighteen. You need to register even if you are gay, bi, or trans.

Failure to register with the Selective Service before the age of twenty-six will result in a permanent loss of eligibility for all federal Title IV education financial aid including Pell Grants, federal campus based aid programs, and the federal student loan program. Federal financial aid accounts for over 90% of the money available for education beyond high school, both for college and vocational training.

When you apply for federal financial aid, your social security number is matched against the Selective Service database. If you are under the age of twenty-six, you may register at the time you apply by checking the appropriate box on the federal application form. If you are not registered, a flag will be placed on your record and the financial aid office at the school you are attending will be required to verify your registration with the Selective Service.

If the school determines that you "willingly and knowingly" failed to register, by law, you may not be awarded federal financial aid. If you are over the age of twenty-six, it is no longer possible to register and the loss of eligibility will be permanent.

As the average age of first time college students is increasing, financial aid offices across the country are reporting a rise in students who are ineligible to participate in federal financial aid programs because of failure to register with the Selective Service. Some common reasons for failing to register include: physical disability, prior enlistment in the armed forces, immigration during the late teens or early twenties, and coming out in the late teens. Ability to serve is not an issue when registering for the Selective Service. Nor is whether or not you support the military: you may file as a conscientious objector after registering for selective service. For information see this link: http://www.sss.gov/FSconsobj.htm.

The final decision on determining eligibility for aid based on Selective Service registration currently rests with the financial aid office at the school. While many financial aid professional organizations have lesbian/gay issues groups who are working to educate the profession about the particular needs of out students, the ultimate decision concerning eligibility of unregistered men rests with an individual in the school's financial aid office.

For more information, contact the Selective Service Information Hotline at 703-605-4100 or visit the Selective Service web site at http://www.sss.gov. Don't jeopardize your eligibility for financial aid. Remember to register with the Selective Service when you turn eighteen.

YOUTH & HIV

Q: Where did HIV come from?

A: It was not until 1978 that individuals in the United States started showing signs of what would later be called AIDS. However, evidence suggests AIDS originated much earlier: a virus causing similar symptoms appeared in the early 20th century in central and southern Africa. A recent study by the CDC has found the strongest evidence shows that HIV-1 probably originated in chimpanzees. Researchers are not sure when HIV was spread from chimpanzees to humans, and how this transmission occurred, but estimate it was somewhere between 1920 and 1945.

Q: What's the difference between HIV and AIDS?

A: HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). If you're HIV+, that means that you have tested positive for HIV, but that does not mean that you automatically have AIDS. People can live healthily for years with HIV. However, it is important to remember that you can transmit HIV to someone even when you feel totally healthy. A doctor's diagnosis of AIDS happens when an HIV+ person's immune system becomes very weak and shows a significantly low T (CD4) count (the cells that help to keep your immune system strong) or comes down with an opportunistic infection (a disease that may occur if the body has a low T cell count).

Q: Is there a cure?

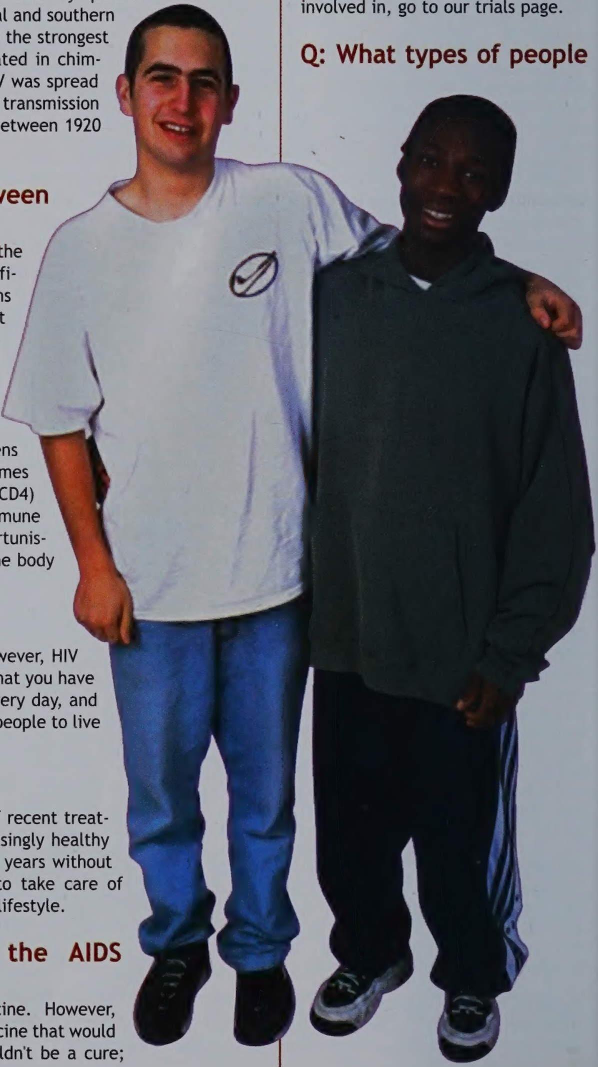
A: No, there is no cure for HIV of AIDS. However, HIV is not a "death sentence" nor does it mean that you have AIDS. There is more research being done every day, and there are many medications that help HIV+ people to live healthy and long lives.

Q: When will I get AIDS?

A: There is no way to tell. With the help of recent treatments, HIV+ people have been living increasingly healthy lives, and some HIV+ people have lived for years without developing AIDS. However, it's important to take care of yourself! For more information see healthy lifestyle.

Q: What's the deal with the AIDS Vaccine?

A: Unfortunately, there is no AIDS Vaccine. However, researchers are working on developing a vaccine that would prevent people from getting HIV. This wouldn't be a cure; rather, a means of preventing HIV infection. To find out more about the development of a vaccine and vaccine trials that young people can be involved in, go to our trials page.



Q: What types of people

get HIV?

A: HIV does not discriminate. Everyone is susceptible, and there is no "type" of person who becomes infected. It is important to remember that it's not who you are, but what you do that puts you at risk for HIV infection. For more information, go to our fact sheet on HIV/AIDS. Young women of color and young men who have sex with men are two populations where the HIV infection rate has been rising disproportionately in recent years.

Q: What can I do to stay healthy?

A: Eating a balanced diet, not abusing alcohol or drugs, keeping in shape, getting enough rest, creating a low-stress environment, and taking your prescribed medications regularly will help you stay as healthy as possible. For more detailed information about living a healthy lifestyle, go to KC Metro's website.

Q: Where do I go for help after I test positive?

A: Although it will probably be difficult to think about after you get your test results, try to ask yourself the question "What's next?" Based on your answer, you'll probably end up considering talking to a friend or family member and figuring out where to go for good medical information in order to treat symptoms and/or in order to stay healthy. For more information, go to www.whatudo.org.

Q: How do I deal with my suicidal thoughts?

A: If you're having suicidal thoughts, please call 1-800-SUICIDE (toll-free) where you'll be able to talk to someone who will help you through how you're feeling. Remember that you are not alone and many people are out there who will support you.

Q: Are there any religious communities that will accept me?

A: There should be! Talk with a trusted person or leader within your religious community. Ask what their thoughts are on HIV/AIDS in general and then if you're comfortable, consider sharing your status. Many people find that having a supportive religious community can be very helpful in their fight to stay healthy.

Q: How can I talk to other HIV+ young people?

A: Look into joining an HIV+ support group for young people in your area by going to our database. Also, you can join an online listserve for HIV+ young people at Youth Guardian Services. Remember that you aren't alone. If you'd like to talk to someone or find support, please see our resources.

Q: How can I be an activist?

A: If you're interested in being an HIV/AIDS activist, you can look into being a peer educator or an HIV+ spokesperson. Call your local HIV/AIDS organization and see if it's looking for volunteers, or if it has any opportunities for positive young people to speak in the community. Think about joining or starting an activist group in your school or community. Check out other activism opportunities at Fight For Your Rights. Also, if you're interested in being a YouthHIV peer educator, go here!

Q: Am I a bad person because I got HIV?

A: No way! HIV is not and should not be a moral issue -- the fact that you are living with and fighting this virus does not change who you are. You should not feel guilty that you are positive, and it definitely does not mean that you are

YOUTH & HIV CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

YOUTH**FACTS**

Because many sexually experienced teens have not been tested for HIV, the actual number of teens living with HIV infection is estimated to be much higher than the reported number (6,587).

- Among youth age 13 to 19, 57 percent of reported HIV infections occurred among young women and 43 percent among young men; 66 percent among non-Hispanic, black youth; 24 percent among non-Hispanic white teens; and eight percent among Latino teens. Asian and native American teens together accounted for less than .009 percent of reported cases in this age group.
- Among youth ages 20 to 24, 64 percent of reported HIV infections occurred among young men and 36 percent among young women; 53 percent among non-Hispanic black youth; 35 percent among non-Hispanic whites; and 10 percent among Latino young adults. Asian and native American youth together accounted for just over one percent of reported HIV infections in this age group.
- Of HIV infection cases reported in 2001 among men ages 13 to 19, 46 percent occurred in YMSM. Five percent of infected young men acquired HIV through heterosexual contact. Of HIV infection cases reported among women ages 13 to 19, 37 percent were acquired heterosexually. Risk factors were not identified for 44 percent of infected male teens and 57 percent of infected female teens.3
- Of HIV infection cases reported in 2001 among men ages 20 to 24, 49 percent occurred in YMSM. Six percent of infected young men acquired HIV through heterosexual contract. Among young women the same age, 32 percent acquired HIV infection through heterosexual contact. Risk factors were not identified for 38 percent of cases among males and 62 percent among females this age.
- Through 2001, African Americans and Latinas accounted for 84 percent of cumulative AIDS cases among women ages 13 to 19 and 78 percent of cases among women ages 20 to 24.
- Through 2001, African Americans and Latinos accounted for 62 percent of cumulative AIDS cases among men ages 13 to 19 and 60 percent of cases among men ages 20 to 24.

YOUTH & HIV CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

a bad person.

Q: Am I going to die young?

A: HIV does not mean that you are going to die, although it is serious and it does mean that you will have to be extra careful to stay healthy and maintain your immune system. People are living longer and longer with HIV, from better medications, a range of additional, alternative therapies. Also, medical researchers are working everyday on finding a cure for HIV/AIDS and even though there is not one yet, it is possible that a cure could be found during your lifetime.

Q: Will my family act differently around me?

A: It is hard to anticipate the attitudes and reactions of your family members could when you disclose your HIV status to them. Before you even get tested for the virus, it is a really good idea to have some sort of support system in place, so that you are certain to have at least the support of a few friends or family members. Hopefully, your family is knowledgeable about HIV and knows that there is no way for others to be infected through casual contact with you. Hopefully your family and friends will treat you no differently than the way they always have. Your family may have the same concerns you have: your health and well-being, your future relationships, whether you are going to live or die. If your family and friends have not been educated about HIV/AIDS, then the only way that they will start to feel comfortable with these issues is by learning about HIV/AIDS. Sometimes people, get scared of things that they know nothing about, and once they know all the facts, it will be a lot easier for them to understand.

Q: I want to know more about HIV. What is it doing to my body?

A: The most important thing you can do to keep yourself healthy is to boost your immune system in any way you can. HIV, being a virus, requires a host cell in order to stay alive and make copies of itself. HIV attacks a particular type of immune system cell, the T-helper CD4 cells. Once the T-helper cell is infected with the virus, it turns into an HIV-replicating cell. Since T-helper cells play a crucial role in our bodies' fighting off viruses and bacteria, the more T-cells we have, the healthier we are in terms of being able to fight off infections. HIV slowly causes the number of T-cells we have to decrease, and that's why keeping your T-cell count up is really important so you don't get other infections that will be hard for your body to fight off.

Q: What do doctors check for at my appointments?

A: In terms of gauging how healthy you are, and how HIV is progressing in your body, doctors mainly check for two things. They will run a viral load test to find out the amount of virus in your body. In general, a high viral load will help determine that your T-cell count may start dropping soon. A CD4 (T-cell) count is also taken by your doctor and tells you how your immune system is doing at that time. The more T-cells you have, the healthier you are overall. If your T-cell count is going up, that's always a good thing. Doctors mainly determine your overall health after considering both your current viral load and your CD4 count.

Q: When should I tell people that I'm positive?

A:Whenever you feel comfortable. It may take you a long time to disclose your status, or you may want to tell some people right after you find out. Most likely, there will be some people you will choose to tell and others you won't. However, you may want to think about telling a trusted friend or family member soon after you find out. Finding out you're positive can be overwhelming to deal with on your own, so having someone to talk to and trust is really important.

Q: How do I tell my partner, family, and/or friends?

A: There is no one right way to tell the people that you care about. You may want to talk to people individually or you might prefer to talk to people in a group. There are also other ways of disclosure, like writing a letter. When you decide to tell people, think about doing so in a comfortable and comforting environment. For more information on ways to communicate and how to discuss your status with loved ones and the other people in your life, go to The Body.

Q: Do I have to tell my partner or anyone I'm in a sexual relationship with in the future?

A: Although it may be difficult, it is very important to tell anyone you plan on having a sexual relationship with that you're HIV+. Because this person will be put at risk, you'll both need to take precautions during every sexual encounter. Also, there are now serious legal issues that may come into play if you don't inform your partner. New state laws make it illegal for a person to knowingly infect someone else with HIV, which means taking part in an unprotected sexual act without telling your partner about your status is against the law and can lead to serious legal consequences.

Q: How do I talk to the person I think I got HIV from?

A: You may want to talk to the person who you think infected you with HIV, if you feel it is safe for you to do so. First, you'll probably want to get some of your emotions off your chest. More importantly, it's necessary because the person who transmitted the virus to you may not even know that he or she is infected. When you talk this person, as upset as you may be, remember that staying calm is important. Although you have every right to be angry, your news may be a shock to the person that you're telling, and being aggressive can cause problems for both of you. Talking to the person is important because you'll want to express how you feel, but it's also important to remember that it won't change your status. No matter what the person's reaction is, think about what you need and what the next step for you is.

Q: What should I do if the people I tell react badly?

A: Unfortunately, this is a real possibility. It's important to anticipate any type of response you may receive. If you're fearful of a negative reaction, be prepared ahead of time with what you'll say or how you'll react. For example, if there is a possibility that you won't want to stay in your house that night, ask a friend ahead of time if you could stay with him or her. Think of one trusted person you can depend on and talk to, if the other people in your life are not supportive. However, also remember that sometimes people need time to deal with life-changing news. The people you tell will most likely be shocked and upset because they care about you, so they may need some time before they can respond in a supportive way. If you need to talk to someone for more advice about what to do or for support, check out our resources.

Q: Do I have to tell the people at school?

A:No, you don't have to tell anyone at school. However, if you decide to inform a faculty member, you don't have to worry about the school kicking you out - it's illegal. You may want to consider informing your school nurse or your teacher, since you may have to deal with medications or other issues during school hours. However, if you're considering telling someone at your school, you may want to consider talking to a family member or trusted adult first in order to figure out how best to inform your school.

Q: I don't feel like I can tell anyone and I'm really depressed. Where can I go for help?

A: If you want to talk to someone about your status but just don't know where to go to, look into joining a local support group in your area or talk to someone at a local HIV/AIDS organization. You can also find online support at Youth Guardian Services. Also, if you just want to talk to someone for support and advice, you can call the National AIDS Hotline at 800-342-2437, which is open 24 hours a day.

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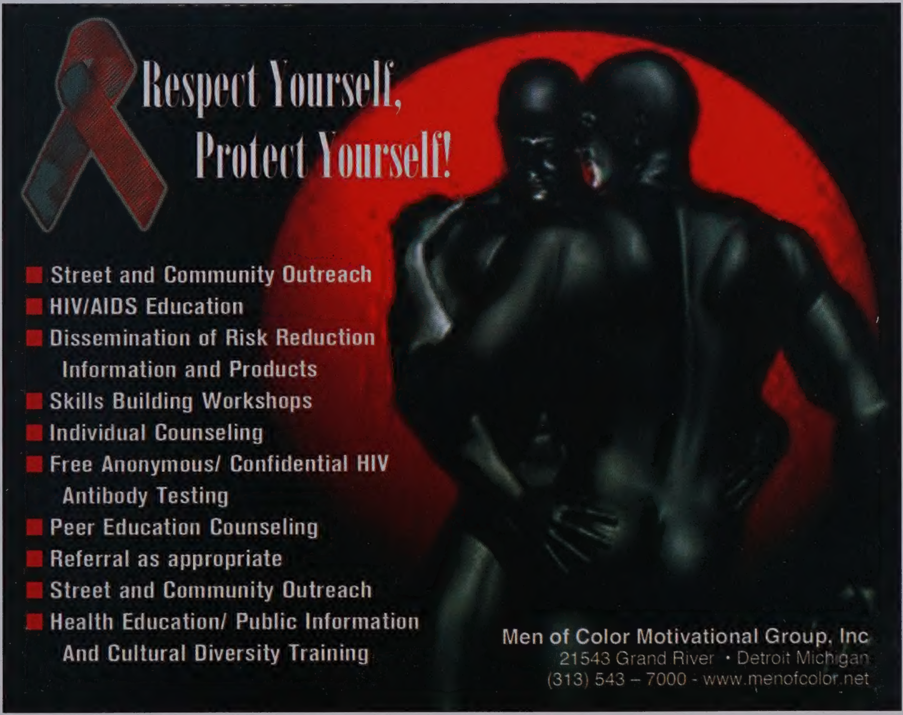

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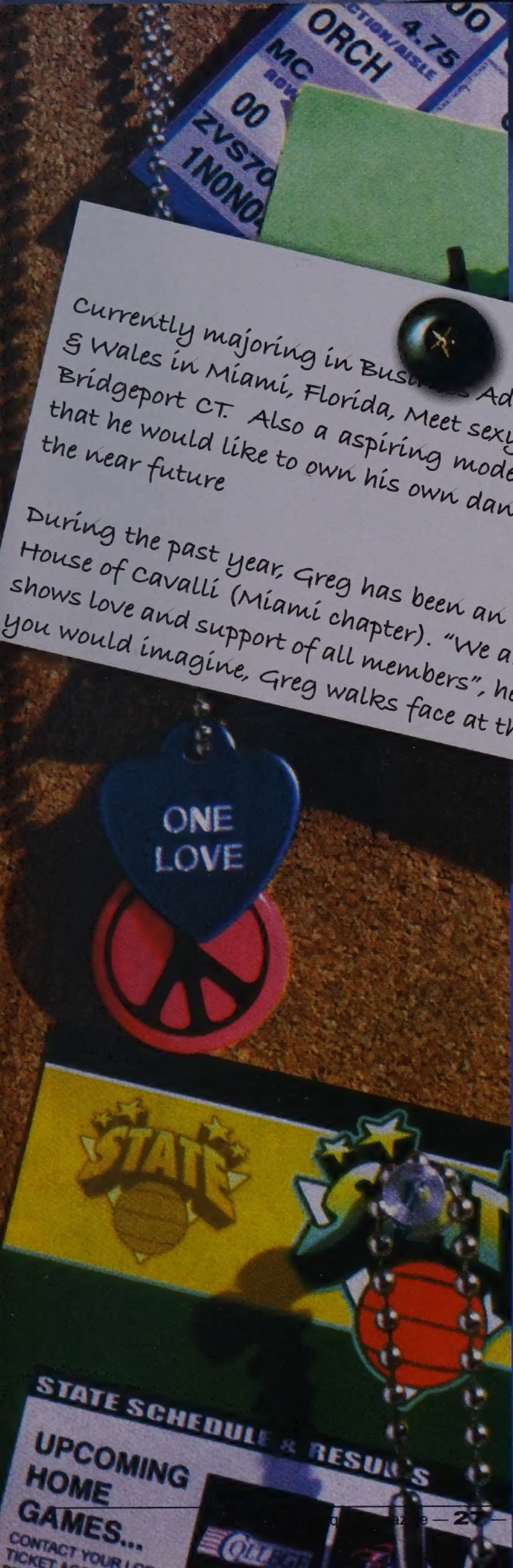
— Greg.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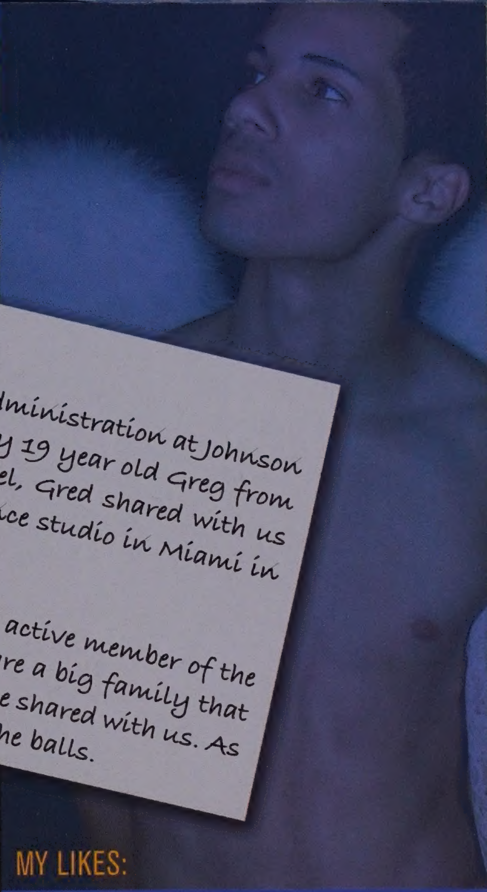


Currently majoring in Business Administration at Johnson & Wales in Miami, Florida, Meet sexy 19 year old Greg from Bridgeport CT. Also a aspiring model, Gred shared with us that he would like to own his own dance studio in Miami in the near future

During the past year, Greg has been an active member of the House of Cavalli (Miami chapter). "We are a big family that shows love and support of all members", he shared with us. As you would imagine, Greg walks face at the balls.

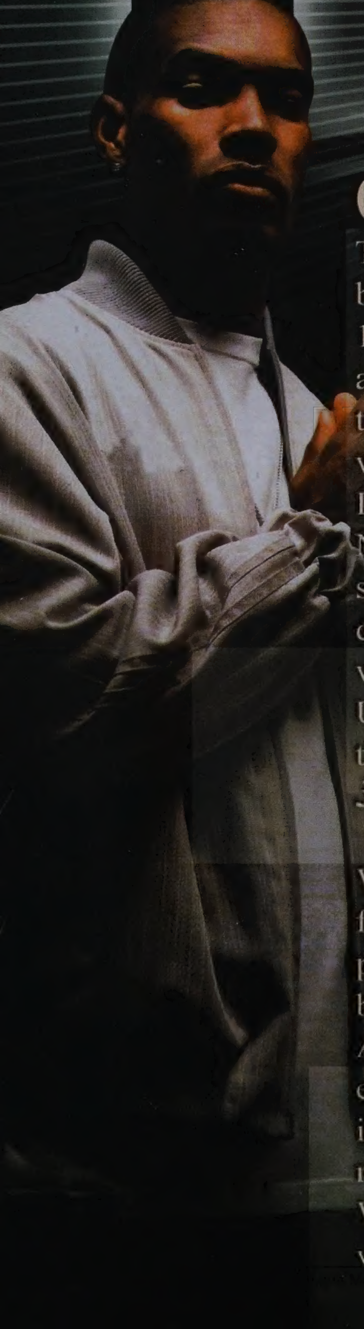
MY LIKES:

Favorite Food: Banana Fritters
Favorite city to visit: Atlanta, Ga
Favorite artist: Beyonce
Favorite Song: Shake u Down by Gregory Abbot
Favorite car: Lexus ES400
Favorite Motion Picture: The Color Purple
Favorite T.V. program: Xena Warrior Princess
Favorite Actor: Denzel Washington
Favorite Actress: Lisa Kudrow
Favorite Magazine: Clikque
Most Recent Book Read: Invisible Life

My Final Thoughts:
In today's society, without an education you will go no where, no matter how many photo shoots you go to, how many balls you walk, or how many trophies you win...without a proper education you probably won't go very far.

— Greg

TRA



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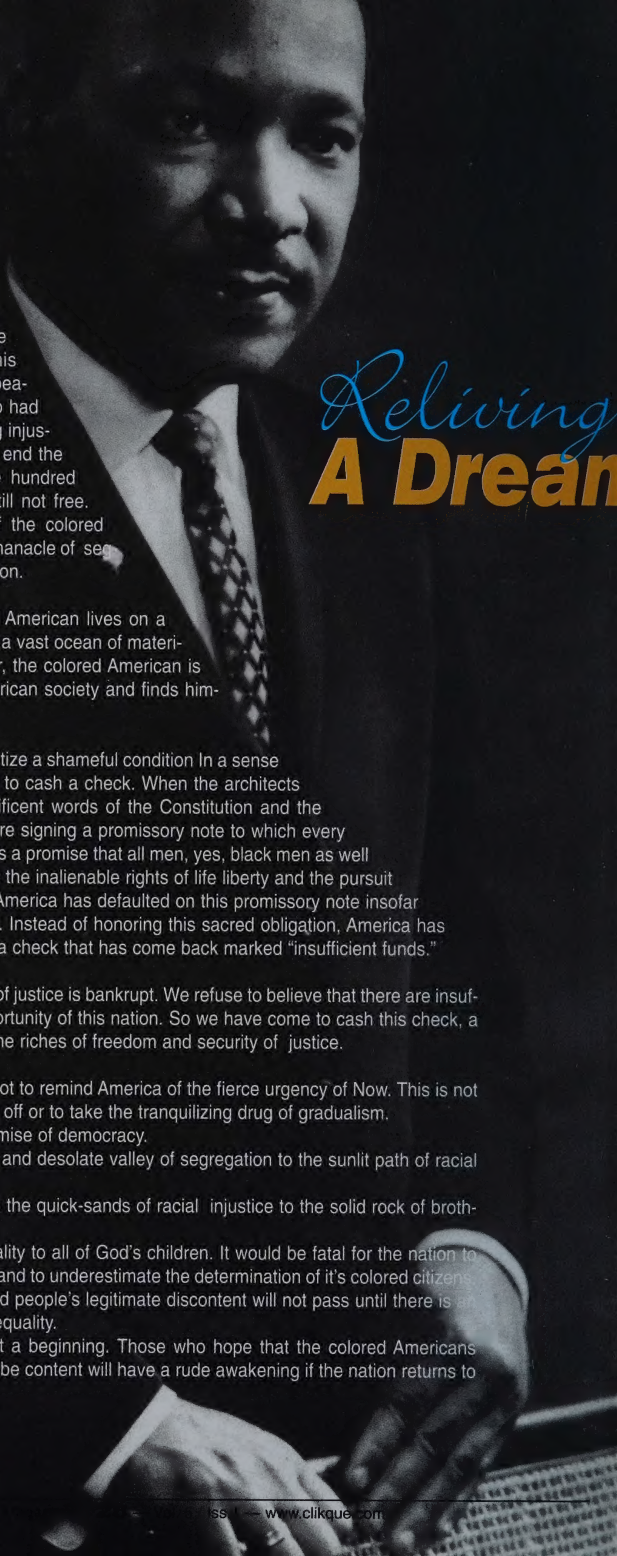


Reliving
A Drea

Aug. 28, 1963

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon of hope to millions of slaves, who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But one hundred years later, the colored America is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the colored American is still sadly crippled by the manacle of segregation and the chains of discrimination.

One hundred years later, the colored American lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the colored American is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition In a sense we have come to our Nation's Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our great republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed to the inalienable rights of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given its colored people a bad check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice.

We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is not time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism.
- Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.
- Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.
- Now is the time to lift our nation from the quick-sands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.
- Now is the time to make justice a reality to all of God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of it's colored citizens. This sweltering summer of the colored people's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.

Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning. Those who hope that the colored Americans needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.

By Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Kin Jr.

There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the colored citizen is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

- We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities.
- We cannot be satisfied as long as the colored person's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one.
- We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for white only."
- We cannot be satisfied as long as a colored person in Mississippi cannot vote and a colored person in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of your trials and tribulations. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecutions and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our modern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you, my friends, we have the difficulties of today and tomorrow.

- I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.
- I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal.
- I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.
- I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.
- I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.
- I have a dream today.
- I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; that one day right down in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.
- I have a dream today.
- I have a dream that one day every valley shall be engulfed, every hill shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains and the crooked places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with.

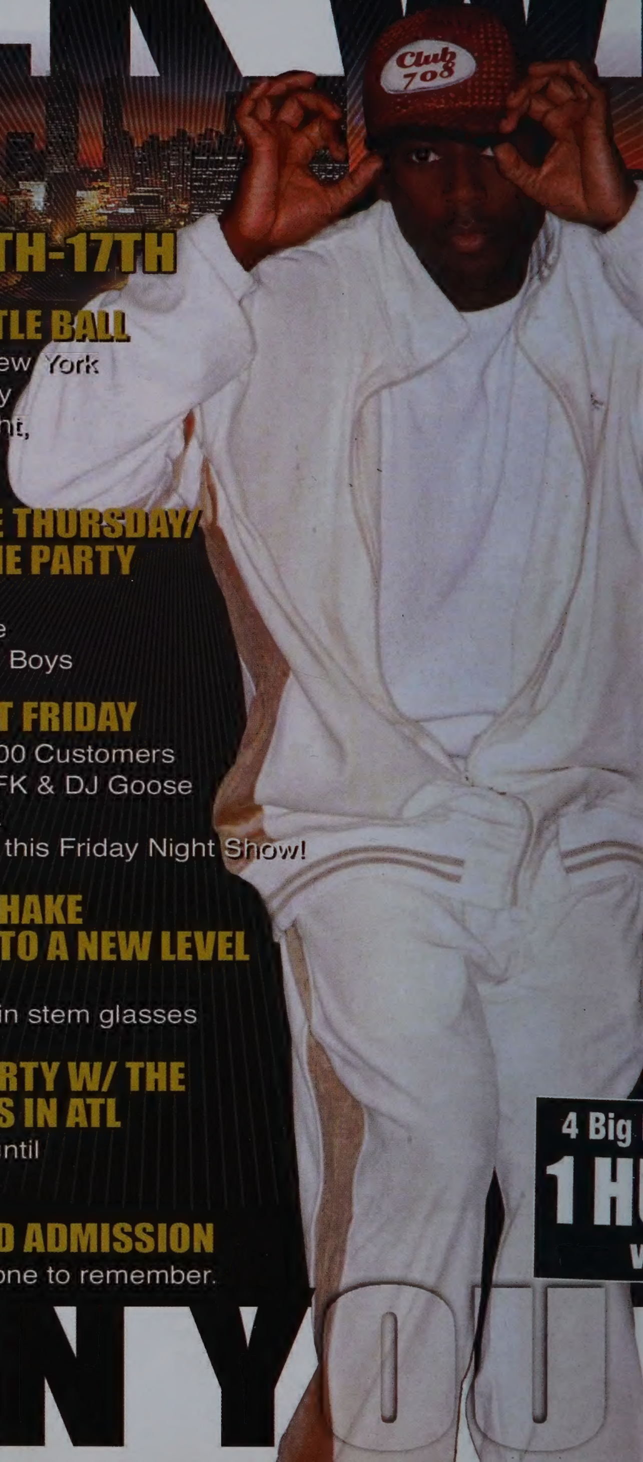
- With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.
- With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.
- With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!
And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

- Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.
- Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that, let freedom, ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia.
- Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi and every mountainside.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. ThankGod Almighty, we are free at last."

MILK W



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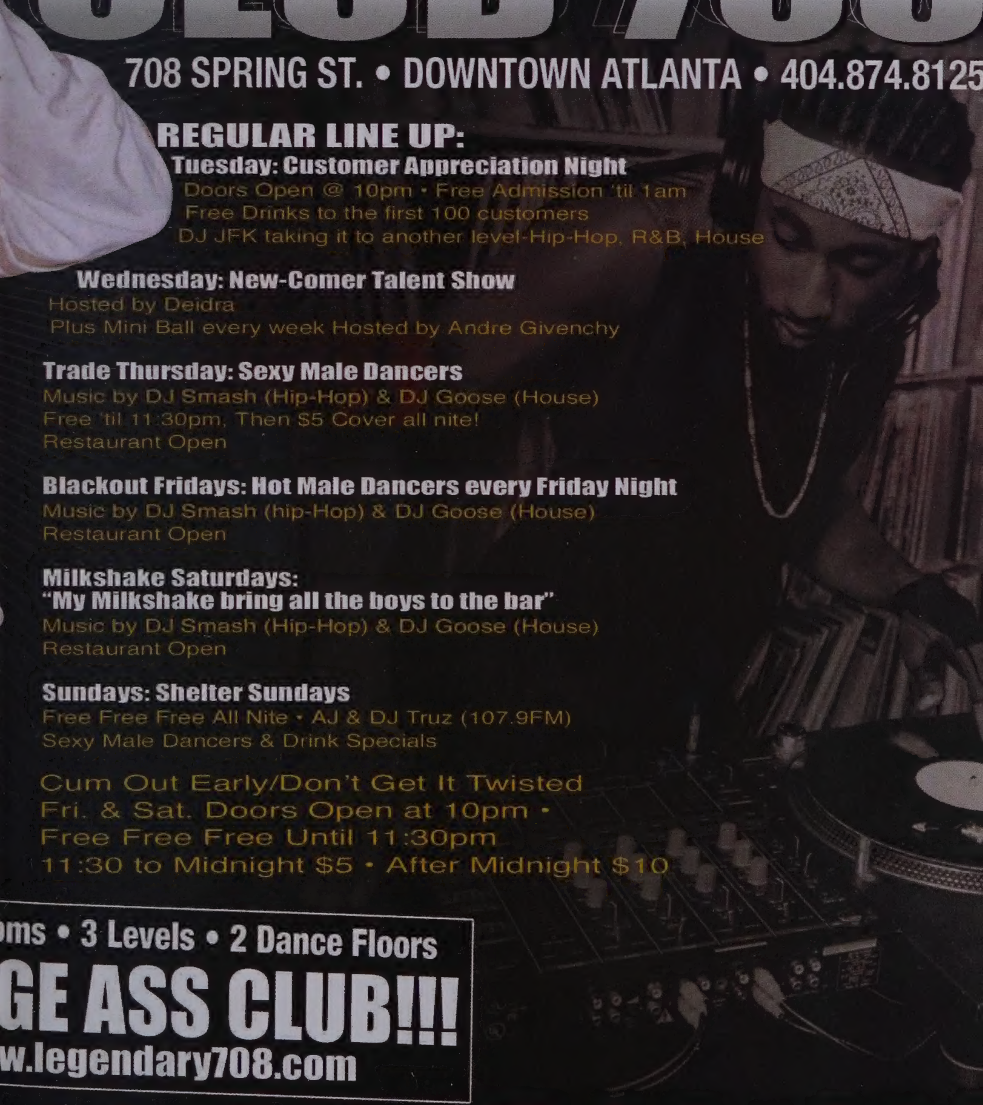

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KEEP UP?

THE GREAT LIFE OF Martin Luther king Jr.

1929

15 January

Michael King, later known as Martin Luther King, Jr., is born at 501 Auburn Ave. in Atlanta, Georgia.

1941

Summer

The King family -- Martin Luther King, Sr. (Daddy King), Alberta Williams King, Willie Christine King, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Alfred Daniel Williams King (known as A. D. King) -- moves from 501 Auburn Avenue to 193 Boulevard in Atlanta.

1944

20 September

King begins his freshman year at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

1946

6 August
The Atlanta Constitution publishes King's letter to the editor stating that black people "are entitled to the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens."

1947

January/February

King's article, "The Purpose of Education" is published in the Morehouse student paper, the Maroon Tiger.

1948

25 February

King is ordained and appointed assistant pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

8 June

King receives his bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Morehouse College.

14 September
King begins his studies at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania.

1951

6-8 May

King graduates from Crozer with a bachelor of divinity degree, delivering the valedictory address at commencement.

13 September
King begins his graduate studies in systematic theology at Boston University.

1953

18 June

King and Coretta Scott are married at the Scott home near Marion, Alabama.

1954

1 September

King begins his pastorate at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

1955

5 June

King is awarded his doctorate in systematic theology from Boston University.

17 November
Yolanda Denise King, the Kings' first child, is born.

1 December
Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to vacate her seat and move to the rear of a city bus in Montgomery to make way for a white passenger. Jo Ann Robinson and other Women's Political Council members mimeograph thousands of leaflets calling for a one-day boycott of the city's buses on Monday, 5 December.

5 December
At a mass meeting at Holt Street Baptist Church, the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) is formed. King becomes its president.

1956

27 January
According to King's later account in Stride Toward Freedom, he receives a threatening phone call late in the evening, prompting a spiritual revelation that fills him with

strength to carry on in spite of persecution.

30 January
At 9:15 p.m., while King speaks at a mass meeting, his home is bombed. His wife and daughter are not injured. Later King addresses an angry crowd that gathers outside the house, pleading for nonviolence.

13 November
The U.S. Supreme Court affirms the lower court opinion in Browder v. Gayle declaring Montgomery and Alabama bus segregation laws unconstitutional.

21 December
Montgomery City Lines resumes full service on all routes. King is among the first passengers to ride the buses in an integrated fashion.

1957

10-11 January
Southern black ministers meet in Atlanta to share strategies in the fight against segregation. King is named chairman of the Southern Negro Leaders Conference on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration (later known as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC).

18 February
King appears on the cover of Time magazine.

6 March

King attends the independence celebrations of the new nation of Ghana in West Africa and meets with Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah.

17 May
At the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., King delivers his first national address, "Give Us The Ballot," at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom.

13 June

King and Ralph D. Abernathy meet with Vice President Richard M. Nixon and issue a statement on their meeting.

23 October

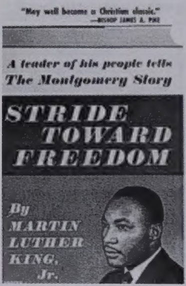
Coretta Scott King gives birth to their second child, Martin, III.

1958

23 June

King and other civil rights leaders meet with President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Washington.

17 September



"May well become a Christian classic."
—BISHOP JAMES A. PIKE
A leader of his people tells
The Montgomery Story
STRIDE TOWARD FREEDOM
By MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr.

King's first book Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story is published.

20 September
During a book signing at Blumstein's Department Store in Harlem, New York, King is stabbed by Izola Ware Curry. He is rushed to Harlem Hospital where a team of doctors successfully remove a seven-inch letter opener from his chest.

1959

3 February

King embarks on a month-long visit to India where he meets with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and many of Gandhi's followers.

1960

1 February
King moves from Montgomery to Atlanta to devote more time to SCLC and the freedom struggle. He becomes assistant pastor to his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

25-28 May
King is found not guilty of tax fraud by a white jury in Montgomery.

23 June
King meets privately in New York with Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy.

19 October

King is arrested during a sit-in demonstration at Rich's department store in Atlanta. He is sentenced to four months hard labor for violating a suspended sentence he received for a 1956 traffic violation. He is released on $2000 bond on 27 October .

1961

31 January

Dexter Scott, King's third child, is born

MLK LIFE CONTINUES ON PAGE 36

MLK LIFE CONTINUED FROM PAGE <NONE>

21 May

After the initial group of Freedom Riders seeking to integrate bus terminals are assaulted in Alabama, King addresses a mass rally at a mob-besieged Montgomery church.

16 October

King meets with President John F. Kennedy and urges him to issue a second Emancipation Proclamation to eliminate racial segregation.

16 December

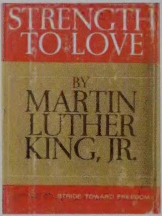
King, Ralph Abernathy and 264 other protesters are arrested during a campaign in Albany, Georgia.

1962

28 September

During the closing session of the SCLC conference in Birmingham, Alabama, a member of the American Nazi Party assaults King, striking him twice in the face.

1963



Strength to Love, King's book of sermons, is published

28 March

Bernice Albertine, King's fourth child, is born.

16 April

Responding to eight Jewish and Christian clergymen's advice that African Americans wait patiently for justice, King pens his "Letter from Birmingham Jail." King and Abernathy were arrested on 12 April and released on 19 April.

7 May

Conflict in Birmingham reaches its peak when high-pressure fire hoses force demonstrators from the business district. In addition to hoses, Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor employs dogs, clubs, and cattle prods to disperse four thousand demonstrators in downtown Birmingham.

28 August

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom attracts more than two hundred thousand demonstrators to the Lincoln Memorial. Organized by A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, the march is supported by all major civil rights organizations as well as by many labor and religious groups. King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech.

After the march, King and other civil rights leaders meet with President John F. Kennedy and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson in the White House.

18 September

King delivers the eulogy at the funerals of Addie Mae Collins, Carol Denise McNair, and Cynthia Dianne Wesley, three of the four children that were killed during the 15 September bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. Carole Robertson, the fourth victim, was buried in a separate ceremony.

10 October

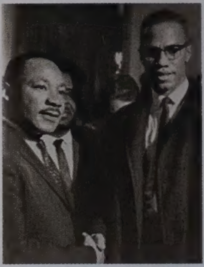
U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy authorizes the FBI to wiretap King's home phone.

1964

18 January

President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with King, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, and James Farmer and seeks support for his War on Poverty initiative. King is supportive of Johnson's proposal.

26 March



King meets Malcolm X in Washington, D.C. for the first and only time.

June

King's book Why We Can't Wait is published.

11 June

King is arrested and jailed for demanding service at a white-only restaurant in St. Augustine, Florida.

18 November

After King criticizes the FBI's failure to protect civil rights workers, the agency's director J. Edgar Hoover denounces King as "the most notorious liar in the country." A week later he states that SCLC is "spearheaded by Communists and moral degenerates."

1 December

King meets with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover at the Justice Department.

MLK LIFE CONTINUES ON PAGE 38

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MLK LIFE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

10 December

King receives the Nobel Peace Prize at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

1965

The King family moves to their new home at 234 Sunset Avenue in Atlanta.

7 March

In an event that will become known as "Bloody Sunday," voting rights marchers are beaten at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama as they attempt to march to Montgomery.

17-25 March

King, James Forman, and John Lewis lead civil rights marchers from Selma to Montgomery after a U.S. District judge upholds the right of demonstrators to conduct an orderly march.

12 August
King publicly opposes the Vietnam War at a mass rally at the Ninth Annual Convention of SCLC in Birmingham.

1966

26 January
King and his wife move into a rehabilitated slum apartment at 1550 South Hamlin Avenue in the North Lawndale district of Chicago for a weekly stay from Wednesday to Saturday.

23 February

In Chicago, King meets Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad.

7 June

King, Floyd McKissick of CORE, and Stokely Carmichael of SNCC resume James Meredith's "March Against Fear" from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, after Meredith was shot and wounded near Memphis.

1967

25 February
At the Nation Institute in Los Angeles, King delivers his speech "The Casualties of the War in Vietnam," which is devoted exclusively to an anti-war theme.

4 April
King delivers "Beyond Vietnam" to a gathering of Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam at Riverside Church in New York City. He demands that the U.S. take new initiatives to end the war.

June

King's book Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community? is published.

1968

28 March

King leads a march of six thousand protesters in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis. The march descends into violence and looting, and King is rushed from the scene.

3 April
King returns to Memphis, determined to lead a peaceful march. During an evening rally at the Mason Temple in Memphis, King delivers his final speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop."

4 April
King is shot and killed while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

9
April

King is buried in Atlanta.

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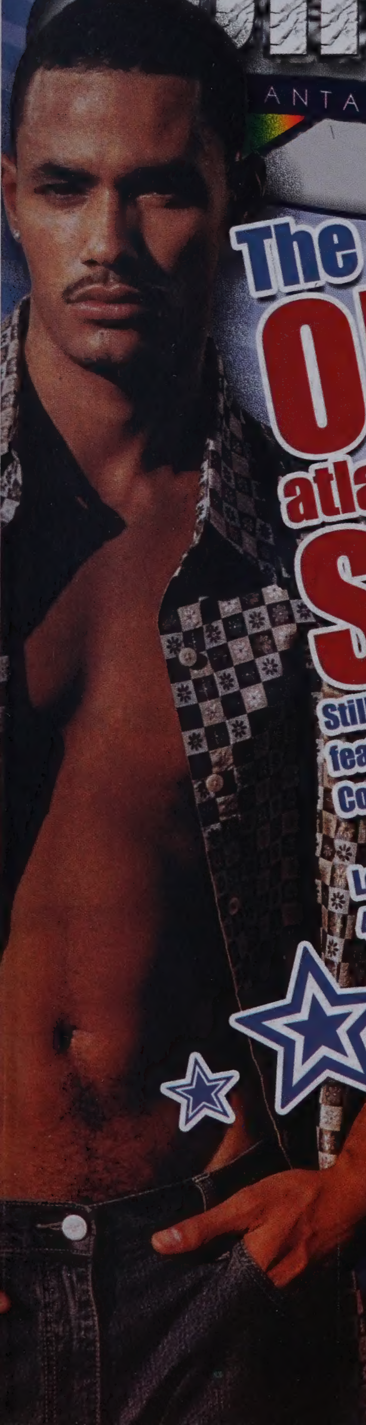

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WRONG BATTLE, OR WRONG TIME?

Leaders of the gay rights movement are embroiled in a bitter and increasingly public debate over whether they should moderate their goals in the wake of bruising losses in November when 11 states approved constitutional amendments prohibiting same-sex marriages.

In the past week alone, the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian advocacy group, has accepted the resignation of its executive director, appointed its first non-gay board co-chairman and adopted a new, more moderate strategy, with less emphasis on legalizing same-sex marriages and more on strengthening personal relationships.

The leadership of the Human Rights Campaign, at a meeting last weekend in Las Vegas, concluded that the group must bow to political reality and moderate its message and its goals. One official said the group would consider supporting President Bush's efforts to privatize Social Security partly in exchange for the right of gay partners to receive benefits under the program.

"The feeling this weekend in Las Vegas was that we had to get beyond the political and return to the personal," said Michael Berman, a Democratic lobbyist and consultant who was elected the first non-gay co-chairman of the Human Rights Campaign's board last week. "We need to reintroduce ourselves to America with the stories of our lives."

But others involved in the drive for gay and lesbian equality say the Human Rights Campaign's approach smacks of pre-emptive surrender and wrong-headed political calculation.

"For a certain segment of the movement, for which I would certainly elect the H.R.C. as poster child, it means that the error was that we were wanting too much too fast," said Jonathan D. Katz, executive coordinator of the Larry Kramer Initiative for Lesbian and Gay Studies at Yale. "It is entirely characteristic for them to believe that what is required is a sort of retrenchment and a return to a more moderate message. They are, of course, completely wrong."

Mr. Katz and other aggressive advocates of gay rights said they believed that marriage rights were the key to winning fundamental equality for gay men and lesbians and that retreat from that struggle was self-defeating.

George Chauncey, director of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project at the University of Chicago, said the marriage debate had galvanized gays more dramatically than any other issue in recent years.

"It is inescapable that marriage is the central issue facing the gay movement now and, given the strength of the right wing, there is no way the movement can run away from it," said Professor Chauncey, author of "Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today's Debate Over Gay Equality." "There is no escaping the fact that marriage is going to be one of the central terrains on which this conversation has to take place."

The gay rights movement, like other battles through history over individual rights, has made progress in fits and starts, in the culture and in the courts, in legislatures and in families. And like most political movements, it has always been riven with dissension on strategy and tactics, on questions of how far and how fast the movement can push without provoking a backlash.

The Human Rights Campaign, which is based in Washington, was instrumental in the defeat this year of the federal marriage amendment, which would have defined marriage as a union only between a man and a woman. The group was not as active in the ballot initiative battles in the states this fall.

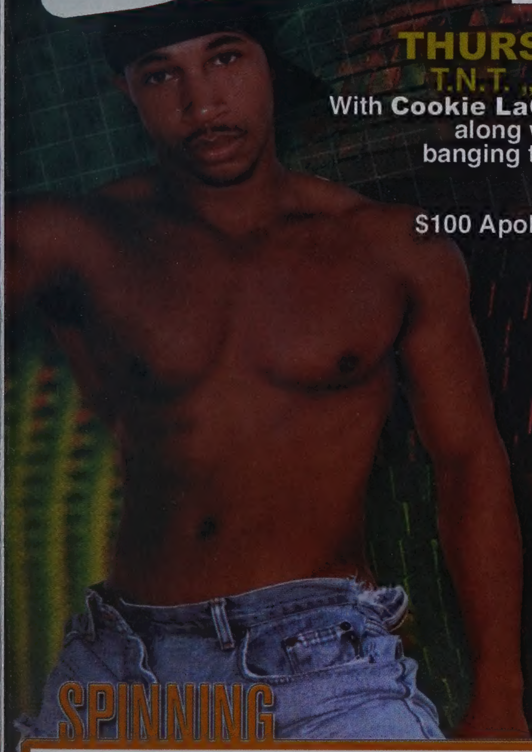
Some gay rights activists, including the leadership of the Human Rights Campaign, said they believed that aggressively pursuing same-sex marriage only played into the hand of Republicans and religious conservatives, who skillful-

WRONG BATTLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 42

Just In Time For The New Year

BARtini

Houston, Texas



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WRONG BATTLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

ly used the issue this fall to energize their voters.

Steven Fisher, the campaign's communications director, said the group's emphasis in coming months would be on communicating the struggles of gays in their families, workplaces, churches and synagogues. The story of gay men and lesbians in the United States is often told through the prism of sensationalism and stigma, Mr. Fisher said.

"When you put a face to our issues, that's when we get support," he said. "We're not going to win at the ballot box until we start winning at the water cooler and in the church pews."

He also said the group would adopt a selective and incremental approach to winning rights rather than reaching for the gold ring of marriage right away. He mentioned that the group would press more immediately for Social Security survivor benefits, hospital visitation privileges and tax breaks for gay couples.

Lawyers representing some gay groups have concluded that challenging antimarriage amendments in individual states is a losing proposition even if they win in some courts because American society is not yet ready to accept the idea of same-sex partners sharing the same rights as heterosexual couples.
"The legal strategy to win marriage rights is a decade ahead of the political strategies to educate the public and the legislatures," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Putting a fundamental right up for a popular vote is always extremely difficult to win, no matter what the cause. And when you are talking about something as recent as marriage equality, the bar gets raised even higher."

Mr. Foreman said that whenever the gay rights movement made progress, it generated a "pushback" in the form of hostile legislation, hate speech and even violence.

But he disagreed with what he called the defensive posture of some gay advocates. He said gay men and lesbians had to remain on the offensive, even if it meant proceeding one state at a time, one gay couple at a time.

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moc

"A lot of gay people understand the concept of bullies," Mr. Foreman said. "The worst thing you can do with a bully is not fight back because you'll only get hit harder the next day."

Pragmatists and politicians are more inclined to support the Human Rights Campaign's measured approach. Representative Barney Frank, Democrat of Massachusetts, said it was important for the movement to sensibly pick its fights. "You take risks for your gains," he said, "but you don't take risks for no gain." In recent weeks Mr. Frank has been particularly critical of Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco for his decision earlier this year to allow thousands of gay couples to wed at City Hall. The marriages, which Mr. Frank called "spectacle weddings," were later invalidated by the California Supreme Court.

Representative Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat from Wisconsin who, like Mr. Frank, is openly gay, said the gay rights movement was caught unprepared for the ballot initiatives this year. She also endorsed an incremental approach to winning rights for gay couples, securing the "component parts" of marriage benefits one at a time.

"When you look at the civil rights that make up the civil institution of marriage, there is significant public support for extending those protections to same-sex couples," Ms. Baldwin said. She also said she would continue her support for an end to workplace discrimination against gay men and lesbians and support efforts by unions to extend benefits to same-sex partners.

The Human Rights Campaign has shown itself to be an effective lobby on Capitol Hill and successful in raising money to work for and publicize gay causes. The group's annual budget is about $30 million. But it finds itself in a difficult environment, with larger and more conservative Republican majorities in Congress and a White House that knows how to use same-sex marriage to its political advantage.

Trevor Potter, a Republican elections lawyer and a member of the Human Rights Campaign's board of directors, said the group's new approach was not a retreat but an acknowledgement of changed circumstances.

"It's a wake-up call," he said. "Just continuing to do what we were doing would not be productive."

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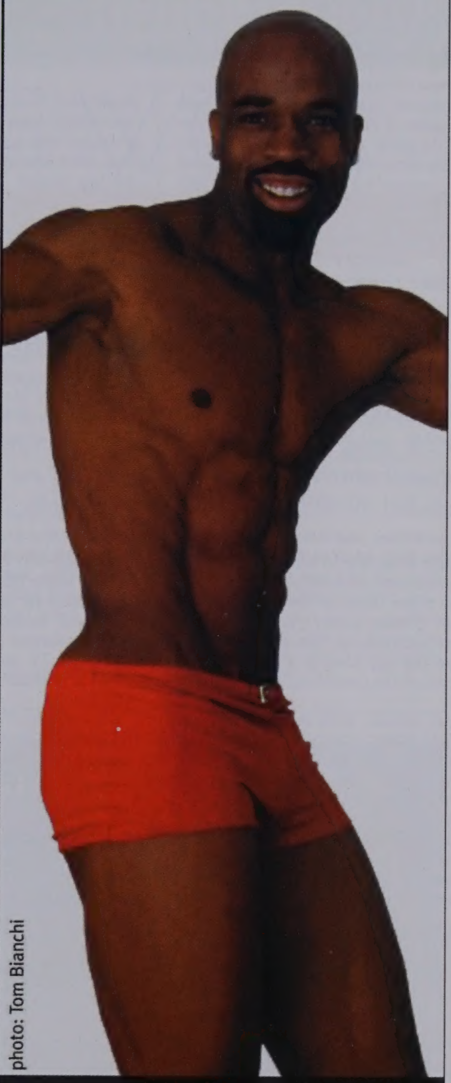
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By James Hill, BET.com Staff Writer

NOW PLAYING:

The Queer Revolution Will Not Be Televised

As we Negroes well know, TV is a poor barometer for social progress. For years we've been criminals, buffoons, boring pillars of White guilt and often just absent from the nightly line-up. Considering that Black folks have been on TV since it's inception, you'd think by now we'd be seeing a wider range of balanced images instead of the sorry parade of stereotypes we continue to see ("24" and "Soul Food" not included). We still have yet to overcome, it seems.

Which brings me to our supposed Gay New World as seen on TV. Back in 1997, the homosexual community had their "Cosby moment" when Ellen DeGeneres came out of the closet on her sitcom showing middle America (at least those watching) that lesbians weren't just men-hating biker chicks or feather-haired porno fantasies but normal folks with everyday lives. Many prophesied this one show would lead the way towards a new age of gay characters on TV. And while some shuddered at the possibility, some saw it as a small taste of equality.

Small indeed. Until now, the so-called tidal wave of Gay TV has yielded seven whole shows in six years, not exactly a revolution (and by show I mean with a majority gay lead - as we know one Black actor doesn't win you NAACP image awards). The first casualty was John Goodman's 2000 FOX show "Normal, Ohio" which retreated back into the closet in less than a season. After that it was a steady trickle starting with NBC's 1998 hit "Will and Grace" and 1999's Showtime drama "Queer as Folk." However, with the sodomy laws being overturned (as much a victory for straight couples as it is for gay ones), talks of a gay high school and a gay bishop the addition of "Queer Eye on the Straight Guy" and "Boy Meets Boy" seemed to be the icing on a banner year for homosexuals.

Or is it? While no one can deny that the existence of these shows (including numerous characters like those on "The Wire," "Spin City" and "The Amazing Race") indicates some progress in mainstream society's acceptance of the gay lifestyles, can TV be relied on to deliver to offer honest and balanced images? To put a fine point on it – just because gay images exist doesn't make them positive or even realistic, which calls into the very question of who these gay shows are for and what bigger purpose they serve.

Nathan Hale Williams, a gay Entertainment attorney from New York, says that while he can't deny the fact that TV's new fascination with gay culture does reflect some forward movement, "Having four shows on TV is not the reality of gay American presence. Right now we have such a small percentage of the pie. And most of that slice is filled with stereotypes. Just like when we, as Black folks, first got on TV we could only be maids and servants, but we had to break barriers. We have to start somewhere."

Surely, some of you are bristling over the fact that Williams dared equate the Black and Gay experiences in this country. The truth is for all their real differences (one can argue the difference between matters of genetics, visible differences vs. internal ones and matters of choice), the two identities share some of the same legal and social hurdles. Oppression is an equal opportunity machine that chews up anyone who does not fit the bill. So to carry this comparison out its conclusion, gay culture is now where Black culture was in the 1950s. Gay and Lesbians are still battling for the simplest of rights like marriage and benefits. Gay people can still turn on the TV and hear their neighbors, co-workers and elected officials rail against them, make jokes about them and work to deny them the happiness straight people have. And if that doesn't sway you, realize that while the first show with a Black lead was 1950's domestic sitcom "Beulah," it wasn't until 1997 that Degeneres came out and changed things. And while many would not call "Ellen" as offensive as "Beulah," some of the more recent gay-themed shows smack of stereotype.

Ok, I admit it. I was curious to see what Showtime's Gay drama "Queer As Folk" had to offer. But after two episodes I was turned off. Sure, I was shocked by the unprecedented close-up shots of White men getting it on with each other, but unfortunately that seemed to be the show's only goal. With a concentration on graphic sex scenes between highly promiscuous young men, Williams agrees that "Folk" shot itself in the foot on the way to making a drama. "It basically promotes the sex-crazed lifestyle that most people think is the gay life," he says. Bravo's new "Queer Eye For the Straight Guy" isn't much better.

For those who haven't seen it, "Eye," which makes up one-half of NBC's gay hour after "Will and Grace," is an all-purpose make-over show that feature five gay men who transform straight male slobs into trendy clothes horses who know how to decorate, cook and pick out the hippest tunes. At the focus of the show is the Fab 5 led by the predictably flamboyant Carson. Like Jack from "Grace," Carson seems like every homophobes worst nightmare, an aggressively effeminate man who's well versed in the "girly arts" of fashion and regularly hits on straight men for sport. While some will be turned off or enraged, Carson, Jack and the rest of his outrageous ilk actually may be working only to cement stereotypes than torpedo them.

Which leads to the excellent question Monica Teher, the People of Color Media Director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation asks: "Who's making the shows, who's writing the shows? Yes, there are gay guys who happen to be like that. You know, into fashion and grooming. But we have a wide spectrum. There are other gay people may not be into cooking, fashion and culture."

There was no question that early shows like "Amos and Andy" and "Beulah" featured Black characters written by White writers to appease White audiences. And what better way to keep mainstream audiences from feeling threatned by an increasingly vocal minority than by giving them what they're used to - stereotypes. And while "Boy Meets Boy," Bravo's dating show doesn't commit the same fouls as "Queer," it still plays on the hetero fear of "not knowing" who is gay. Sprinkled in "Boy's" pool of single men are straight men "acting gay," something that apparently can be achieved by wearing Old Navy and widening ones eyes when they speak (sound familiar?). It's hard enough to imagine ABC's "The Bachelor" or "Bachelorette" with a person of color, but could you imagine some of the potentials in shoe polish and FUBU in an attempt to "act Black?" Kweisi Mfume would have an aneurysm. And yet the show exists.

Which brings me to another point, where are the Black folks. As if all these swishy, over-sexed, queer guys created for the straight eye characters weren't insulting enough, even they don't have the common courtesy of addressing the fact the Black people exist. "While I do think that we see more gay and lesbian characters than a decade ago the problem we have now is where are the characters people of color?" Teher asks. "We have the impression that being gay is to be White, male and affluent. That is what we see on TV. That is not reality. The community is made up of all social groups."

To be fair, HBO's dramas "Six Feet Under" and "The Wire" feature both a gay man and a Black lesbian couple respectively. Naturally it's a cable network that gets it right, doing it's best to create three-dimensional characters instead of stereotypes. But those characters are precious few and ironically serve as two of the station's only Black dramatic characters that aren't criminals.

Who knows how long it will take before we see a drama that focuses on an older, stable gay couple? Or a Black lesbian version of "Ally McBeal?" At this point, chances seem slim as TV's main concern is not illuminating the complexities of gay culture but regurgitating the preconceived notions we have about it in 30-minute segments that can be bought and sold for millions of dollars to investors.

So, hey gays and lesbians, welcome to Minority American Status. Pull up a chair. Clench your fists and chill with another misrepresented people as we idly wait for TV to catch up with politics. Take a number, the next revolution should be coming any minute now.

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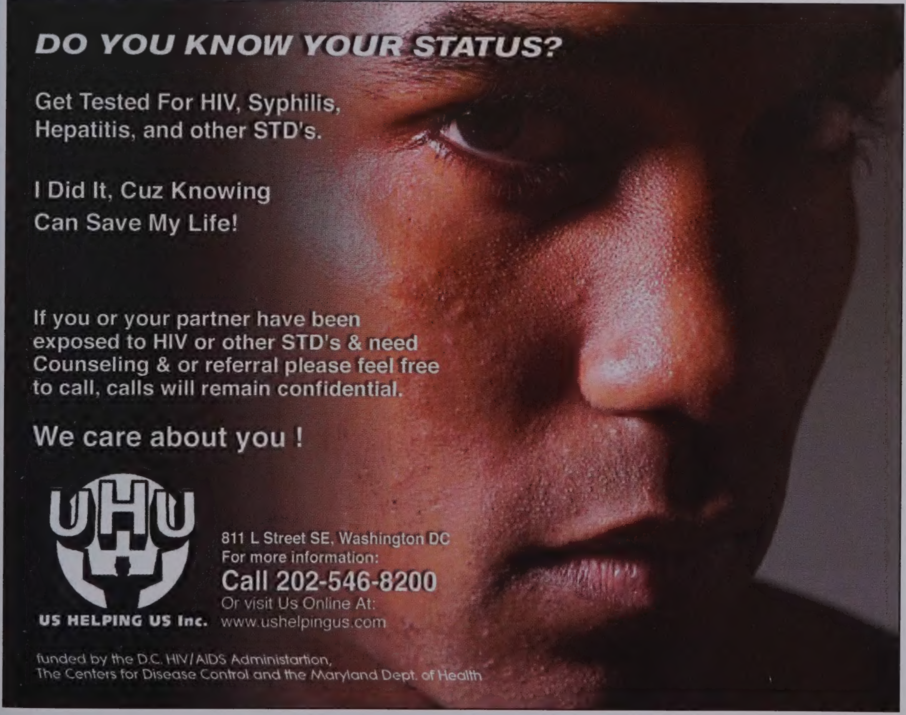

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MTV TO OFFERS GAY TV IN 2005

LOGO, the new digital television network targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) viewers, announced today the programming plans being readied for its Feb. 17, 2005, launch, including details of its first-ever development slate. Marshaling the creative resources of Viacom and MTV Networks, LOGO has amassed a premier library of more than 150 movie and documentary acquisitions and is currently in active development with more than 20 projects with marquee names attached like Cher and Chastity Bono, Alan Cumming and Margaret Cho, among others. The announcement was made today by Brian Graden, President, MTV/VH1Entertainment; and Matt Farber, executive consultant who brought the concept to MTV Networks and is spearheading the launch of LOGO.

"Because of the variety of perspectives and experiences in the gay community, the programming ideas and opportunities for LOGO are boundless," said Graden. "Perhaps most thrilling has been the outpouring of support and enthusiasm from the creative community, both gay and straight, since we first announced LOGO."

MTV Networks announced the launch of LOGO on May 25, 2004, with the goal of super-serving the LGBT community with a diverse slate of entertainment programming. LOGO will be an authentic voice and home base for the LGBT community with a programming mix of popular acquisition titles; projects featuring well-known, independent and tastemaker names; and a commitment to telling real-life stories

"In addition to a phenomenal library of acquired films and specials, the programming we're developing will speak in an authentic voice to this audience," said Farber. "We're building this brand to reflect their diversity and tastes through an array of genres, all informed by a gay point of view."

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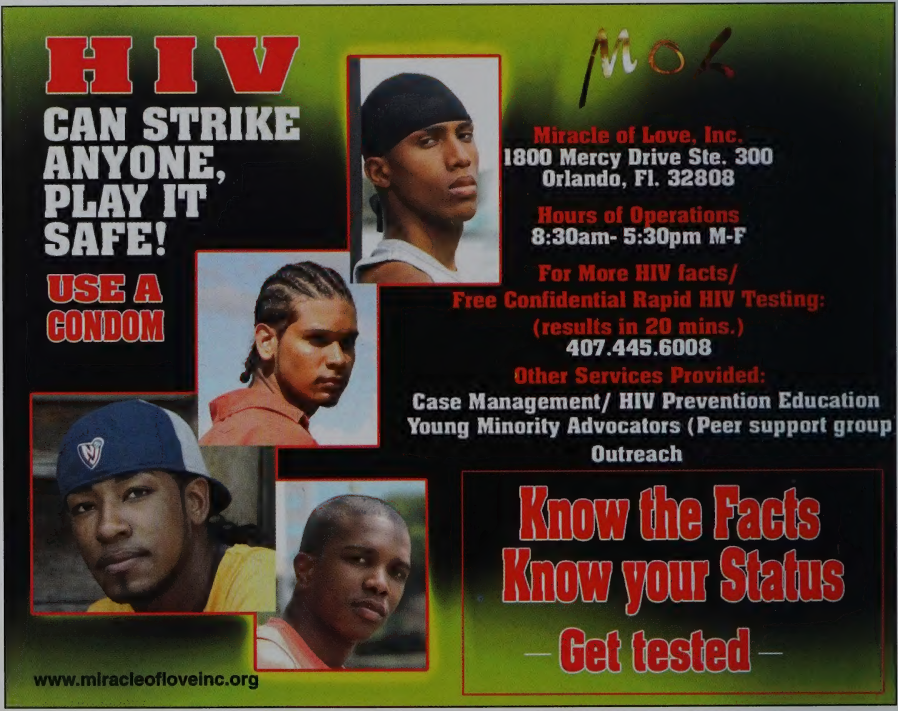

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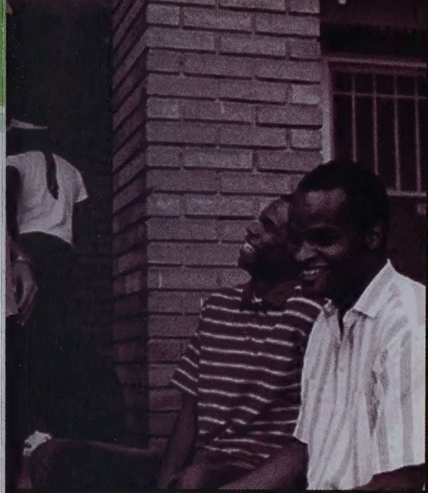

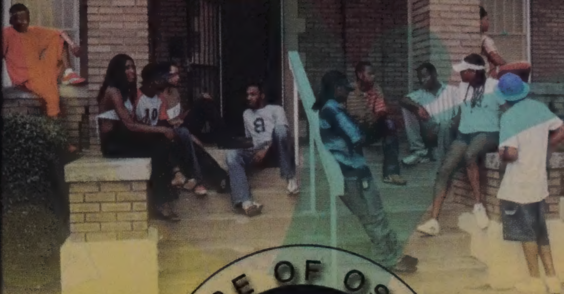

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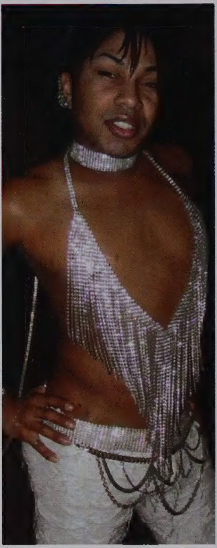

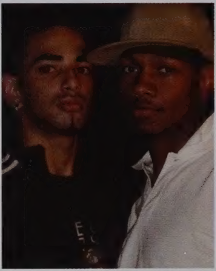

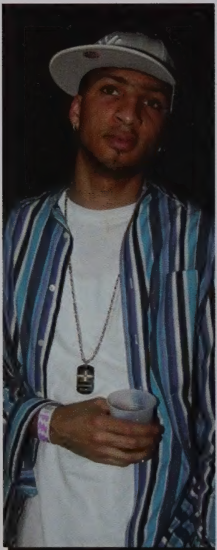

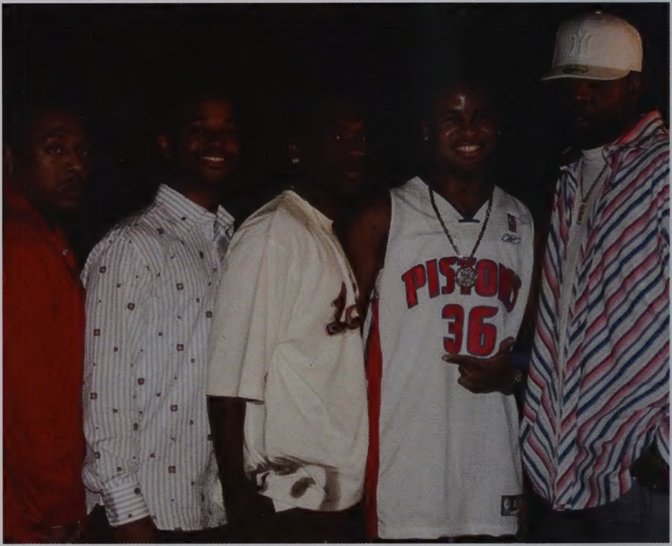

Written By Dwight Powell

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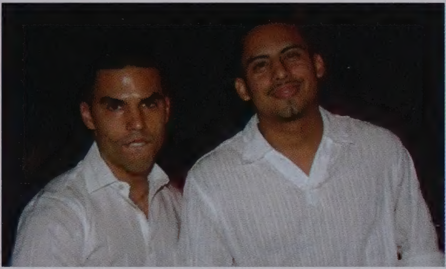
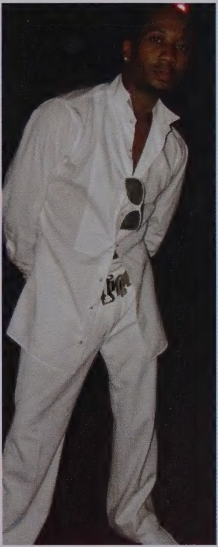
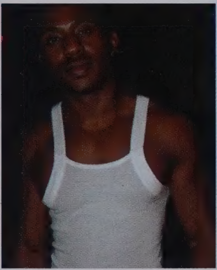
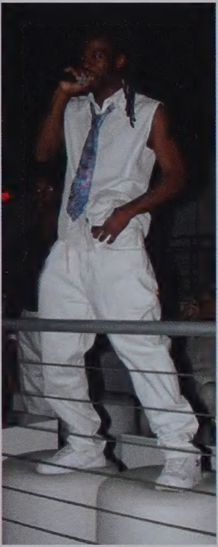
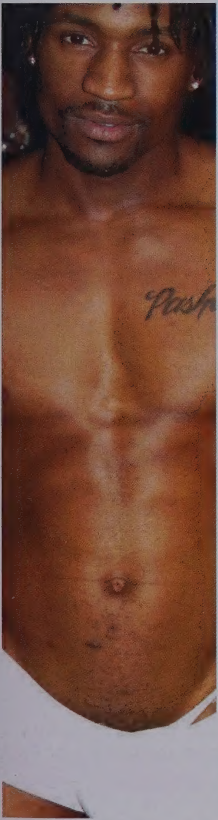






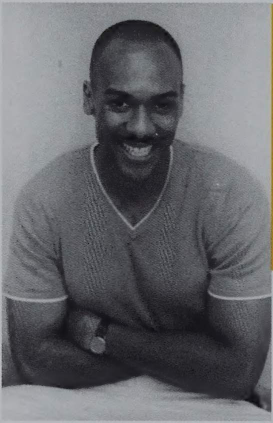




BY RYAN LEE

DEBUNKING THE DOWN LOW

New book by Keith Boykin attacks media frenzy fueled by one writer's 'lies'



The truth about black sexuality in general is even more undercover than black men who have sex with men "on the down low" due to recent media misinformation, charges gay activist Keith Boykin in his upcoming book, "Beyond the Down Low: Sex and Denial in Black America."

Set for release in February 2005, Boykin's book charges that African Americans have long avoided having honest conversations about issues like fidelity, the existence of black gay men and lesbians, and taking individual responsibility for protection against HIV.

Instead of addressing those issues, blacks – aided by what Boykin calls a sensationalistic media – have recently focused their ire over rising HIV rates among black women on black men on "the down low," widely perceived as men with wives or girlfriends who secretly have sex with men.

A deluge of media coverage over the last two years cites men on the down low as the primary cause of disproportionate HIV rates among African-American women. That presumption has become prevalent despite the Centers for Disease Control & Preven-tion's insistence that data on the down low is hard to come by and a clear definition of the "DL" is non-existent.

"It's very frustrating when you read the newspapers day after day and you see the same old bullshit being printed about the down low, and it's all wrong – everything you think you know about the down low is wrong," says Boykin, board president of the National Black Justice Coalition, a group that advocates legalizing same-sex marriage.

Boykin also takes aim at J.L. King, author of "On the Down Low," which warns black women that men on the down low are an ominous threat. Boykin places much of the blame for misconceptions about black men who have sex with men on the widespread media attention King receives due to his years of personal experience leading a sexual double life.

King's book took flight with his high-profile appearances on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and in interviews with the New York Times Magazine, Sister To Sister magazine and the talk show of U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr., among many others.

A friend first introduced King to Boykin in 2001 as an "ill-informed black gay man masquerading on the down low," Boykin says.

Boykin charges in "Beyond the Down Low" that King and his book are a ball of contradictions and that King bounces from interview to interview spreading misinformation about HIV and black sexuality.

"One person's life story, which really isn't that credible to begin with, is fueling this entire media story," Boykin says. "He has always been motivated by money –that's the guy's whole objective."

But King said in an interview Monday that Boykin's criticism is fueled by envy and that Boykin's own aspirations are simply to match King's literary success.

"I just hope he doesn't become successful off my name – don't tear me down to sell a book," says

BY RYAN LEE

King, who also insists that he respects Boykin as a colleague.

In his book, Boykin paints King as a modern-day Uncle Tom, willing to feed into stereotypes of black men being irresponsible sexual predators in order to acquire fame and wealth for himself.

"A few opportunistic blacks are all too willing to tell white America exactly what they want to hear about us, and ... white America is all too willing to publicize and promote controversial black figures who are severely ill-informed," Boykin writes.

King does not dispute a passage in Boykin's book in which King originally attempted to court Boykin to ghostwrite "On the Down Low," only to be rebuffed. When Boykin refused, King tried to "sweeten the pot [by telling Boykin], 'We're going to make a lot of money off this,'" Boykin writes.

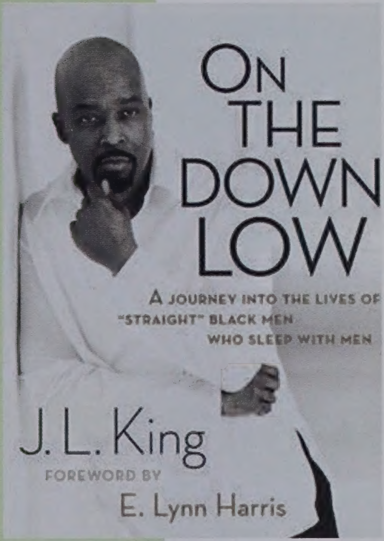
But King dismisses Boykin's charges that he is motivated solely by personal and financial gain, saying that his main motivator is to stop the spread of HIV.

"Why is it that in the African-American community, when one is successful we don't celebrate that success instead of tearing him down?" King says. "We need to really come together as one voice and make some positive things happen instead of Keith trying to talk about me."

King notes that he has contributed $100,000 to help establish the Lillie Mae King Foundation, which is named after his mother, to deliver HIV prevention messages to under-targeted gay and bisexual men.

Boykin's book criticizes the media's unquestioning acceptance of King — who originally landed onto the national scene in a New York Times Magazine profile as the operator of a "DL" Internet porn site — as an expert on HIV and black sexuality.

Mr. King is a national HIV prevention educator, activist, author, and producer who specializes in the analysis of the behavior and lifestyles of African American men who have sex with men, but do not consider themselves gay, bisexual or homosexual—men on the "Down Low." He has interviewed over 2,500 men who are living on the DL.


ON THE DOWN LOW
A JOURNEY INTO THE LIVES OF "STRAIGHT" BLACK MEN WHO SLEEP WITH MEN
J.L. King
FOREWORD BY
E. Lynn Harris

Kelly McBride, an ethics faculty member at the Poynter Institute, a Florida-based journalism school and think tank, questions how the word of King, with no experience in health care, is accepted at face value by media outlets.

"We don't vet our experts very well, and as journalists we need to do a better job of doing that," McBride says. "If his only credentials are he used to run a Web site and he used to participate in the down low life, that doesn't make him a sociologist, and we should not make him a sociologist."

In his book and during the interview Monday, King insists he never purported to be an expert. But the biographies that appear in his book and on his Web site refer to him as "an HIV/STD prevention activist, educator."

If the information King is spreading about the down low was untrue, black gay men, not the media, are responsible for calling him on it, says Mary Mitchell, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times who regularly writes about the down low and other black issues.

"J.L. King is well known among the gay circle, and if he was a fraud, they should have come out and told their story," Mitchell says. "I just don't think we understand the black gay community, and so King can say whatever he wants to say because it's such a closed community. That's how he got away with it."

Some black gay men protested King's message, but they didn't receive the same media attention, says Boykin, who hopes his book will spark new discussions among blacks and the media about the complex cultural factors surrounding the down low.

McBride doubts Boykin's book will cause the same stir that King

BEYOND THE DL CONTINUES ON PAGE 52

BY RYAN LEE

BEYOND THE DL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

managed to build.

"It's never going to be as big as that [New York Times Magazine] piece, and that is one of the problems of reporting – you can never duplicate what you've already done," she says.

But Boykin – who admits there are limited examples of thorough, in-depth reporting on the down low and positive media representations of black men who have sex with men – says he hopes the media will correct the inaccuracy of their earlier stories.

The first eight chapters of Boykin's book challenge popular conceptions about what being on the down low means. Boykin uses pop culture and current events to show that men and women of all ethnicities and sexual orientations – from former New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey to the female R&B trio TLC –partake regularly in sexual relations outside of committed relationships.

But when McGreevey admitted to having an extramarital affair with another man in August, the media did not report that his behavior was indicative of a new group of white men on the down low possibly exposing their wives and girlfriends to HIV, Boykin notes.

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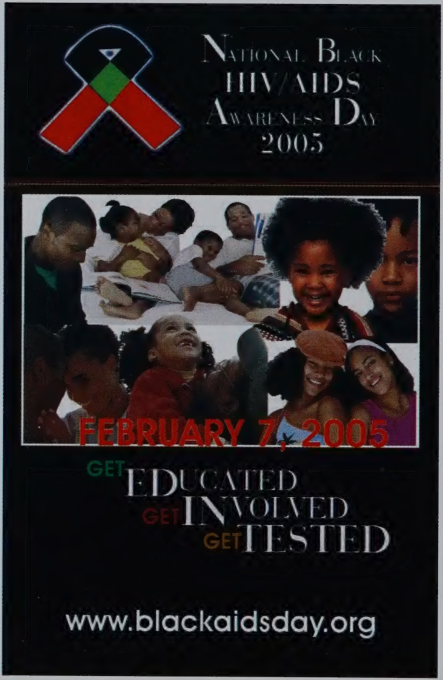


"When black men become involved in fake relationships, we process the issue by ascribing negative characteristics to an entire group of people, and we tend to think in global terms concerning the breakdown of the black family and other such nonsense," Boykin writes.

Critics say J.L. King, author of 'On the Down Low: A Journey Into the Lives of "Straight" Black Men Who Sleep with Men,' spreads misinformation for personal gain, something King denies.

"When white men become involved in fake relationships, we simply call it what it is and move on," he continues. "We don't make sweeping generalizations about all white men, and we don't try to study the pathology of their behavior."

The media's handling of black male sexuality is reflective of society's historic fascination with the issue, McBride says.

"If you look at the media's coverage of sex and sexuality, we are much more suspicious of black male sexuality than we are of anybody else's sexuality," she says. "The media hasn't caused that, they haven't corrected it and sometimes they perpetuate it."

But it is easy for the media and black women to accept the notion that men on the down low are spreading HIV to their unsuspecting female partners because "there has to be an explanation as to why HIV rates have skyrocketed among African-American females," says Mitchell, the Sun-Times columnist.

"As long as those stats are there, then you can't say [it's not the down low] because it's happening somehow, and someone needs to explain why," she adds. "And you have this guy [King] who came out and alleges there's a down low community going on – now that's juicy stuff."

But in addition to black women needing to take responsibility for protecting themselves from HIV, Boykin says that the perception that they account for the majority of new HIV/AIDS cases is also misguided. The figure widely quoted by King that black women represent 68 percent of all new HIV diagnoses is especially egregious, according to Boykin.

"Black women are grossly over-represented among female AIDS cases, but they have never been even close to a majority of all AIDS cases," Boykin writes. "Nor are black women the majority of black AIDS cases."

According to CDC data released last week, the number of HIV/AIDS cases in 33 metropolitan areas with confidential HIV reporting "remained relatively stable" over the last four years, with the rate of HIV/AIDS cases increasing 3 percent among men and decreasing 3.7 percent among women.

In 2000, men accounted for 71.3 percent of all HIV/AIDS diagnoses, a figure that increased to 72.6 percent in 2003, according to the CDC.

The number of blacks diagnosed with HIV/AIDS decreased by .5 percent from 2000 to 2003. But black men and women continue to have drastically disproportionate rates of the disease, with black women accounting for 69 percent of female HIV diagnoses during that time period.

The HIV/AIDS rate for black men is 103.8 per 100,000 people, compared to a 40.3 per 100,000 for Hispanics and 12.8 per 100,000 rate for whites. The rate for black women is 50.2 per 100,000 people, compared to 12.4 per 100,000 for Hispanic women and a 2.0 per 100,000 rate for white women.

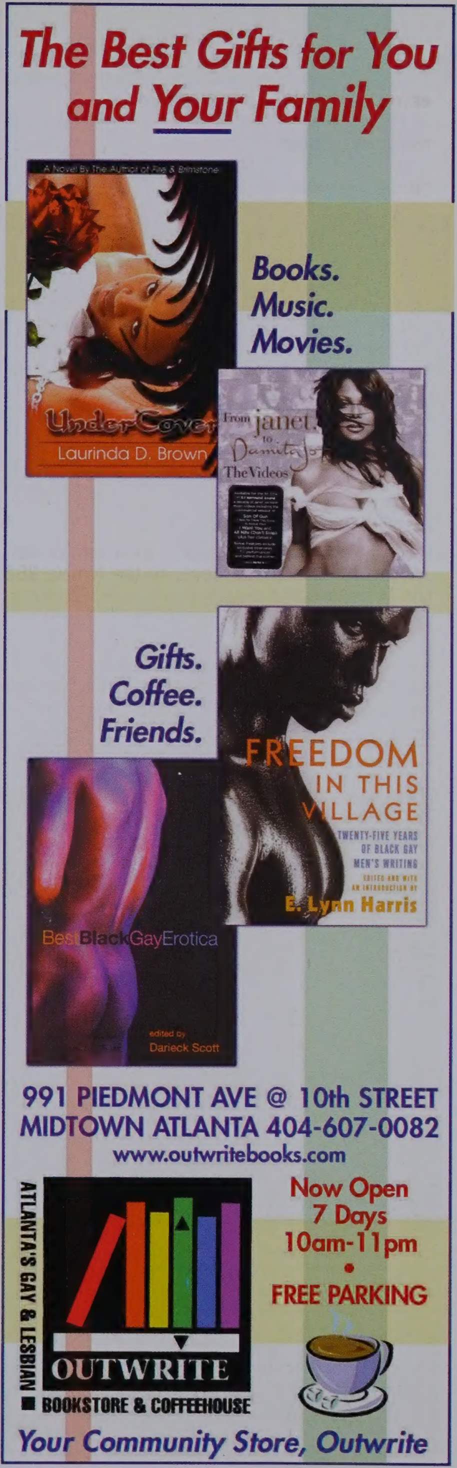
In contrast to the popular assumption that men on the down low are the main cause of rising HIV rates among black women, the CDC lists HIV risk factors for blacks as poverty, denial, high-risk behavior, substance abuse and higher rates of other sexually transmitted diseases, which facilitate the spread of HIV.

King says he is unsure whether the claims he makes in his book about the down low's impact on HIV rates will survive scrutiny, but he adds that he is not interested in debating Boykin about "his opinion."

"I don't know if they will stand up because the numbers have changed so much in three years," says King, who added that his second book, "Coming up from the Down Low," is scheduled for an April 2005 release.

"It will more or less try to heal the turmoil among African-American women," King says. "Since so many women listen to me, I want to give them peace."
Mitchell scoffs at King's image of himself as a savior for black women.

"I don't think he has any information, any insight to offer African-American women – it's all about money," Mitchell says.



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Upclose with Lady PT Duree

Lady P.T. Dupree, long-time Dallas comedian and illusionist has been one of the area's leading entertainers for almost 20 years. Born Auwayne Dumas in Austin Texas, 43-year-old P.T. Dupree knew from a very young age that he wanted to be an entertainer. Growing up in Abilene, Auwayne participated in various plays. On year he played as Mickey Mouse, and realized that entertaining would be his calling.

In February of 1985, Auwayne recalls being at a friend's house lip singing to the music of Patti Labelle. It was at that moment that Davina Dumas was born. Under the stage name Davina, Auwayne entered and won Miss West Texas Newcomer, his first female impersonation pageant.

A few years later, Auwayne moved with his mom to Houston where he frequented the local gay clubs. It was here in Houston that Auwayne began to fully explore all facets of gay entertainment. Auwayne doubled as a male stripper and a female impersonator at various venues. Stand-up comedy was also a passion of Auwayne. Yes way before Grace and the Hilarious Sophia McIntosh, Auwayne did comedy acts. As Granny

Hightower, Auwayne dazzled the clientele at the legendary Club Studio 13.

In late eighty's, Auwayne and his mom moved back to Austin where he would perfect his craft. Like in Houston, Auwayne was a regular at the gay clubs. He played closed attention to the entertainers in drag and vowed that he could do better and that he did. However, unlike most of the other entertainers in Drag, Auwayne did more than just lip singing. His witty tirades and stunts dazzled audiences. Yes he did do more that just apply make-up and wear pretty dresses and wigs. Like Sophia McIntosh and Maxine Blu, two other talented individuals featured in Clikque, Auwayne commands the mic and could rival most stand-up comedians.

"For me, the make-up, clothes and wig are just apart of my show. I am a man and have no desire or intension of tipping to the other side. In the early days when I began doing shows, there were just a few guys that had breast and stuff... and they were excellent entertainers. Today boys with breast are everywhere with must less entertainment value", stated Lady P.T.

Now living in Dallas Texas under the stage name Lady P.T., Auwayne is one of the most popular and utilized entertainer in the area. Auwayne moved to Dallas in the early ninety's and quickly made a name for himself at Traxx in Dallas and later at The Metro.

Another quality that sets Lady P.T. (Auwayne) aside from other entertainers and female impersonators is that he's a huge advocate in the fight against HIV/AIDS. At the end of each of his performances, Lady P.T. urge individuals to protect themselves and their mates from contracting and spreading HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. "I'm 100% in support of all fun-raisers, HIV testing and awareness activities, because I have lost friends to this deadly disease and I am sick of seeking young men and women lives being devastated by it", said Lady P.T. Lady P.T. also said that he's really concerned that because of the advances in new AIDS drugs, young people have become less threatened about trying. This negative attitude most not continues, insists Lady P.T.

Q&A

Hey how you doing?
After the elections I guess I'm ok.

I heard that you used to live in Atlanta, Ga. How did you end up all the way in Atlanta from Austin?
I had a good friend who was stationed in Norfolk, VA and I used to catch the greyhound from TX all the way to VA (you know how those bus rides can be). I had to stop off in ATL because I heard about some club called Loretta's, which of course is known now as 708.

I heard that you used to live in Atlanta.
Yes I did. Believe it or not I was hired by David who was the late owner of Traxx at the time to be a voice jockey, but he let me go because he caught me hightailing it to Loretta's from time to time and

15 MINUTES CONTINUES ON PAGE 56

15 MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

he was not havin' that. I thank him for that opportunity and I appreciate everything that he did for me.

Now where did you get the fab name Lady P.T. Dupree?
Let me back up for a moment. I actually went through 2 names before I became Lady P.T. My first Drag name was Davina Dumas then I transitioned into Diane Carol. Lady P.T. came from the late Nicole of Austin.

What does P.T. stand for?
Well...I will just leave that up to your imagination. The last name Dupree came from the time I did my very first talent in Atlanta, Niesha Dupree gave me a red dress to wear and of course I won that talent night with an A&B selection from the legendary Melba Moore and that sickening dress. Niesha has always been an inspiration to me.

How long have you been an entertainer?
I have been in this industry for about 19 years. Matter of fact my 20th year anniversary show is coming up in February 2005.

Do you still grace the Metro with your presence as a performer?
To be honest I have been so busy with the stand-up comedy and other clubs that I haven't had the chance to, but of course whenever they need me I would be happy to work with them

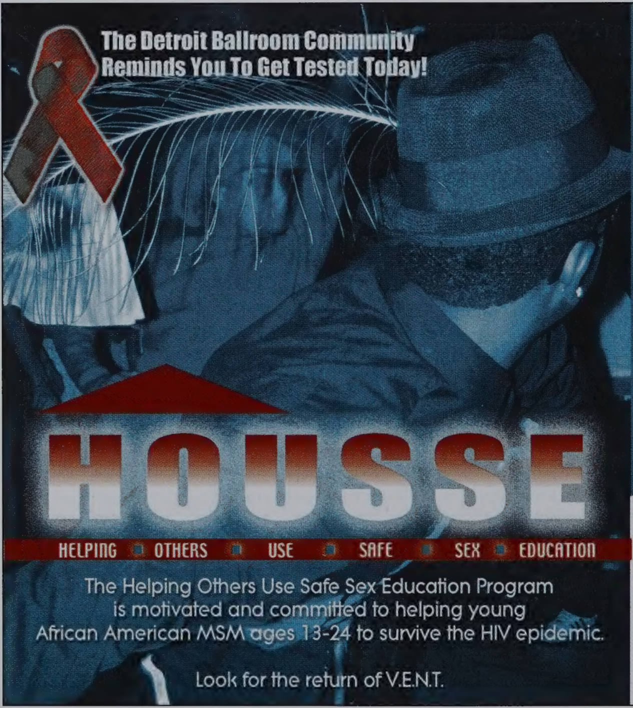
Does your family know that you dress up in Drag while hosting or doing stand-up comedy?
Child they been knowing every since my mother caught me in her church suit when I stole her 1979 Ford LTD and went to the club in Drag to host.

Why do you choose to be in Drag when you do stand-up comedy?
I like to be different. My act is no different from Jamie Foxx as Wanda or Tyler Perry as Madea I just take it a step further.

Is it true that you have worked with one of the Queens of Comedy?
Yes Ma'am I did with Sommore and I hosted the show as a boy.

When and where was this?
It was last year in September at Club 708 in Atlanta.

Are there any last words or comments that you would like to make?
Coming soon my website but until then you can email me at ladyptdupree@yahoo.com for booking information. I would also like to thank Don Sneed, Executive Director of Renaissance III, Inc., Ray Dyer, and Anthony Falls Project Coordinator of the House of Osiris. I would also like to extend my thanks to Nanette Lee and K104FM radio station, Dallas News4U (Eternity), Jinah Houston of Norfolk, VA and the whole Dupree Family. If I forgot anyone charge it to my mind and not my pumps. SEE YA SOON!



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GO CANADA!

Canadian supreme court rules in favor of gay marriage

In a landmark opinion Canada's supreme court said Thursday that the government can redefine marriage to include same-sex couples. However, the court added that religious officials cannot be forced to perform unions against their beliefs, and the legislation to allow same-sex marriage must still be passed by the House of Commons.

Canada would join Belgium and the Netherlands in allowing gays to marry if the government rules that it is legal nationwide. The court's decision brings to the final stages a long, bitter fight over whether gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry in Canada. Public opinion is evenly divided on the matter, and advocates for both sides are preparing for the final phase of the battle. Judges in six provinces and one territory have already overturned the traditional definition, allowing thousands of gays and lesbians to wed. "This is a victory for Canadian values," said Alexander Munter of Canadians for Equal Marriage.

To pass in the House of Commons the legislation needs the approval of about 44 of the 95 Liberal backbench members of parliament to obtain a 155-vote majority in the 308-seat house. One top Liberal predicted the legislation should pass easily after its introduction, likely early next year. It already has the support of the 38-member Liberal cabinet and virtually all 54 Bloc Québécois and 19 New Democrat MPs.

However, some Liberal members of parliament are opposed. "I do personally have a problem with redefining marriage, and I'm sure some of my colleagues do as well," said Roy Cullen of the Liberal Party. Gordon Young, pastor of the First Assembly of God Church in St. John's, was highly disappointed by the ruling. "It's a sad day for our country," Young told CBC television news. "God is in the DNA of this nation. We believe that changing the definition of marriage is changing the divine institution that God put in place for the order of our society."

The ruling by the court in Ottawa, the national capital, said the legal definition of marriage should change with public opinion over time. "Several centuries ago, it would have been understood that marriage be available only to opposite-sex couples," the court said in its advisory opinion. "The recognition of same-sex marriage in several Canadian jurisdictions as well as two European countries belies the assertion that the same is true today." The opinion is not legally binding, and it's now up to the federal government to make gay marriage protected by law nationwide.

The high court opinion comes 18 months after former prime minister Jean Chrétien abandoned his government's fight against same-sex marriage by refusing to appeal provincial court rulings in Ontario, British Columbia, and Quebec, which declared traditional marriage laws were unconstitutional. His government then drafted legislation that would allow gay and lesbian weddings in city halls, courthouses, and in religious institutions that choose to perform them. To ensure the bill would be passed, the Liberal government asked the supreme court three questions:

- Does the federal government have exclusive authority to define marriage?
- Does the charter protect religious groups from having to perform gay weddings against their beliefs?
- Is the proposed same-sex marriage law constitutional?

Prime Minister Paul Martin expanded the reference after he was sworn in a year ago, adding a fourth question: Is the traditional definition of marriage--a union between one man and one woman--also constitutional? This was aimed at clarifying once and for all whether the centuries-old definition of marriage is flawed. The federal Conservatives and several Liberal MPs are expected to fight to preserve marriage for heterosexuals only.

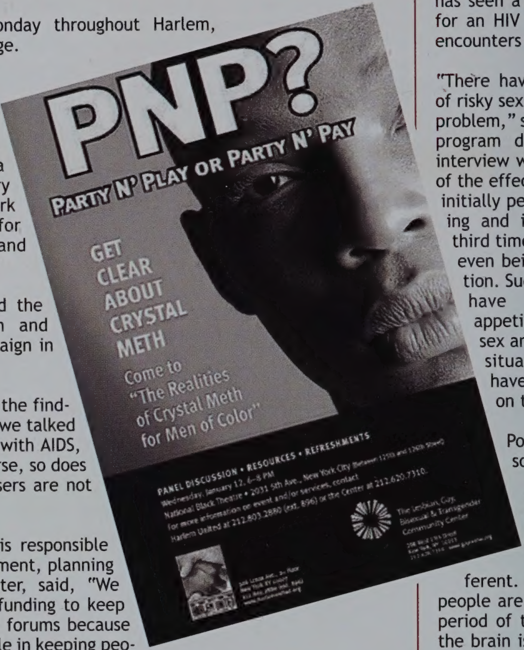
Tyler Pray

Meth Effort Aimed at Gays

The mounting threat of crystal meth use in the gay African-American community is pushing gay health organizations into action.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, Harlem United Community AIDS Center and the New York Panthers Leather Club have joined forces and launched a community-awareness campaign beginning with posting compelling posters featuring photos of African-American men, titled "PNP? Party N' Play or Party N' Pay."

The posters went up Monday throughout Harlem, Chelsea and the West Village.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The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

"Men of color are using the substance, even though there were anecdotal feelings in the community that this was not a problem," said Dr. Perry Halkitis, director of New York University's Center for HIV/AIDS Education and Training.

Halkitis' research revealed the severity of the problem and helped motivate the campaign in its early stages.

"We presented data about the findings we had," he said. "As we talked about in the '80s and '90s with AIDS, campaigns have to be diverse, so does the meth campaign. All users are not buff boys from Chelsea."

Dr. Barbara Warren, who is responsible for organizational development, planning and research at the Center, said, "We hope to get continuation funding to keep doing print media and the forums because they fulfill an important role in keeping people informed about the issues."

The campaign is funded through a grant from the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

Warren acknowledged that the posters are merely a start.

"People respond a certain way to visual, but they need a place to come and talk and ask questions," she said.

Harlem United and the New York Panthers Leather Club are offering that place. The groups will have meth-related information on hand at the Panthers' Annual Holiday Celebration at the Eagle Bar in Chelsea on December 18. They're also co-sponsoring a free forum titled "The Realities of Crystal Meth for Men of Color," to be held January 12 at the National Black Theatre in Harlem.

"The Panthers are a really old organization who have usually taken a low profile," Warren said. "Now we are teamed up and have an ability through them to reach a community we have not reached. And we have gone uptown to Harlem United. Some of our constituency has never been to anything in Harlem. It's an opportunity for them to go."

Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD), an organization that offers support services for the LGBT community, has seen a number of men come in for an HIV test after unsafe sexual encounters while high on meth.

"There have been several episodes of risky sex, which leads to HIV/AIDS problem," said Borris Powell, GMAD's program director, in a telephone interview with Gay City News. "One of the effects of crystal meth is that initially people report having amazing and intense sex, but by the third time, most people report not even being able to have an erection. Suddenly they are real high, have an insatiable sexual appetite, but are incapable of sex and they end up in a sexual situation where they don't have experience being safe—on the bottom."

Powell reflected on the personality-altering effects.

"The damage this drug does changes a person," he said. "They look different, they move different. It saddens me to see how people are damaged in such a short period of time, and the damage to the brain is irreversible. It's terrifying to see what it's doing to the young generation."

All of the organizations engaged in the meth effort recognize that they are in early stages with the campaign, but hope to secure funding to move forward and do more to combat meth.

"It's a start," Halkitis said. "Posters and campaigns are one element. I think they are effective as a warning sign to those not using, but less effect for those actually using, who will most likely ignore the messages. We need comprehensive treatment programs for men already using."

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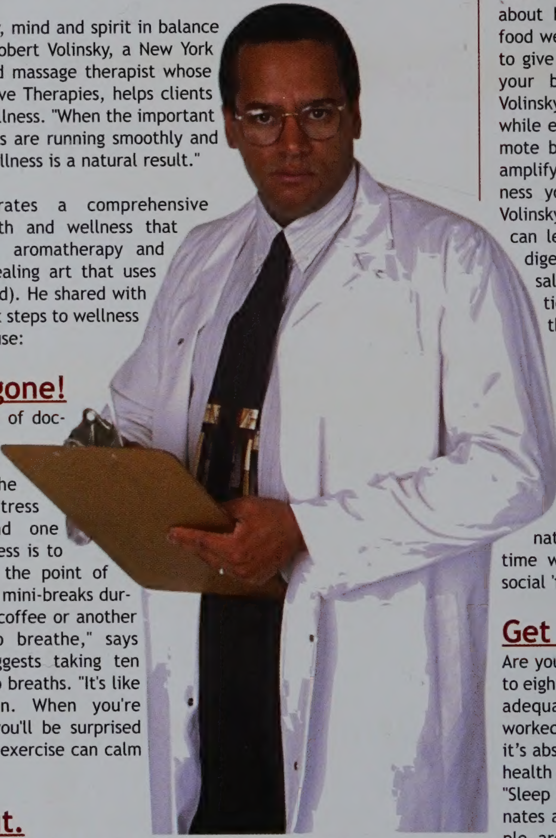
FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO BETTER HEALTH

If you spend time at the gym, chances are you're in pretty good physical shape and enjoying your share of admirers wherever you go. But is looking good in a tank top all there is to being healthy? Of course not.

"Keeping your body, mind and spirit in balance is the key," says Robert Volinsky, a New York City-based licensed massage therapist whose business, Restorative Therapies, helps clients achieve overall wellness. "When the important aspects of our lives are running smoothly and make us happy, wellness is a natural result."

Volinsky incorporates a comprehensive approach to health and wellness that includes massage, aromatherapy and Reiki (a sacred healing art that uses the hands and mind). He shared with us the following six steps to wellness that all of us can use:



Stress be gone!

A large proportion of doctor visits are related to stress, according to the National Stress Organization. And one way to reduce stress is to avoid working to the point of burning out. "Take mini-breaks during work, not for coffee or another cigarette, but to breathe," says Volinsky, who suggests taking ten slow, relaxed deep breaths. "It's like a mini-meditation. When you're done breathing, you'll be surprised at how easily this exercise can calm you down."

Work it out.

"Nothing erases stress and promotes wellness better than a little sweat," says Volinsky. "Moving around and using your muscles helps your body remove toxins and benefits your heart and lungs." Play tennis, take a walk, run in the park, grab a dumbbell or do anything else you enjoy that gets your body moving and active, says Volinsky. And don't forget to stretch (or better yet, take a yoga class). Studies have consistently shown that stretching not only increases flexibility but also slows aging and promotes better sleep! (If you have health problems, be sure to consult your doctor before beginning an exercise routine).

Eat consciously.

Notice we're not using the word "diet" here. We're merely talking about having an awareness of the food we eat. "Your meals are a time to give back to yourself, to support your body and your life," says Volinsky. "Be present and conscious while eating. This will not only promote better digestion of food, but amplify appreciation for the wellness you are trying to maintain." Volinsky warns that eating quickly can lead to indigestion and other digestive problems. "Give your salivary glands a chance to function. After all, food is more that just fuel, it's life!"

Feel the love.

We're not just talking about the hottie you took to the movies last Saturday night. Love also comes from family, friends and your community. "We are social beings by nature," says Volinsky. "Having time with those we care about is social 'food' we can't live without."

Get your zzz's.

Are you getting enough sleep (seven to eight hours a night)? Not only does adequate sleep help your gym-worked muscles rebuild and grow, it's absolutely crucial to maintaining health and wellness, says Volinsky. "Sleep is the time our body rejuvenates and restores itself. Many people are sleep-deprived, which can dramatically undermine their health, making them more prone to illness, stress and depression."

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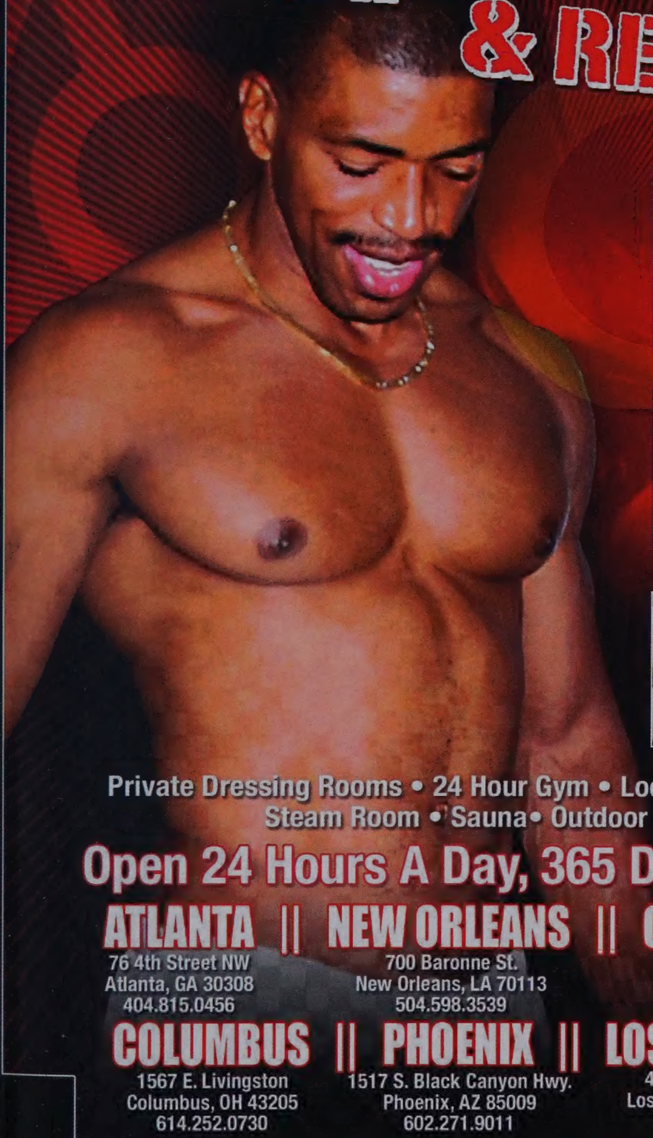

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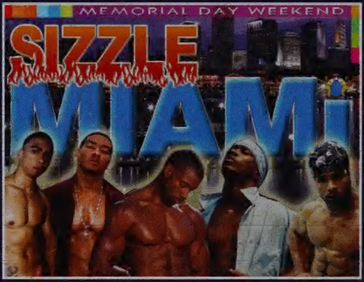

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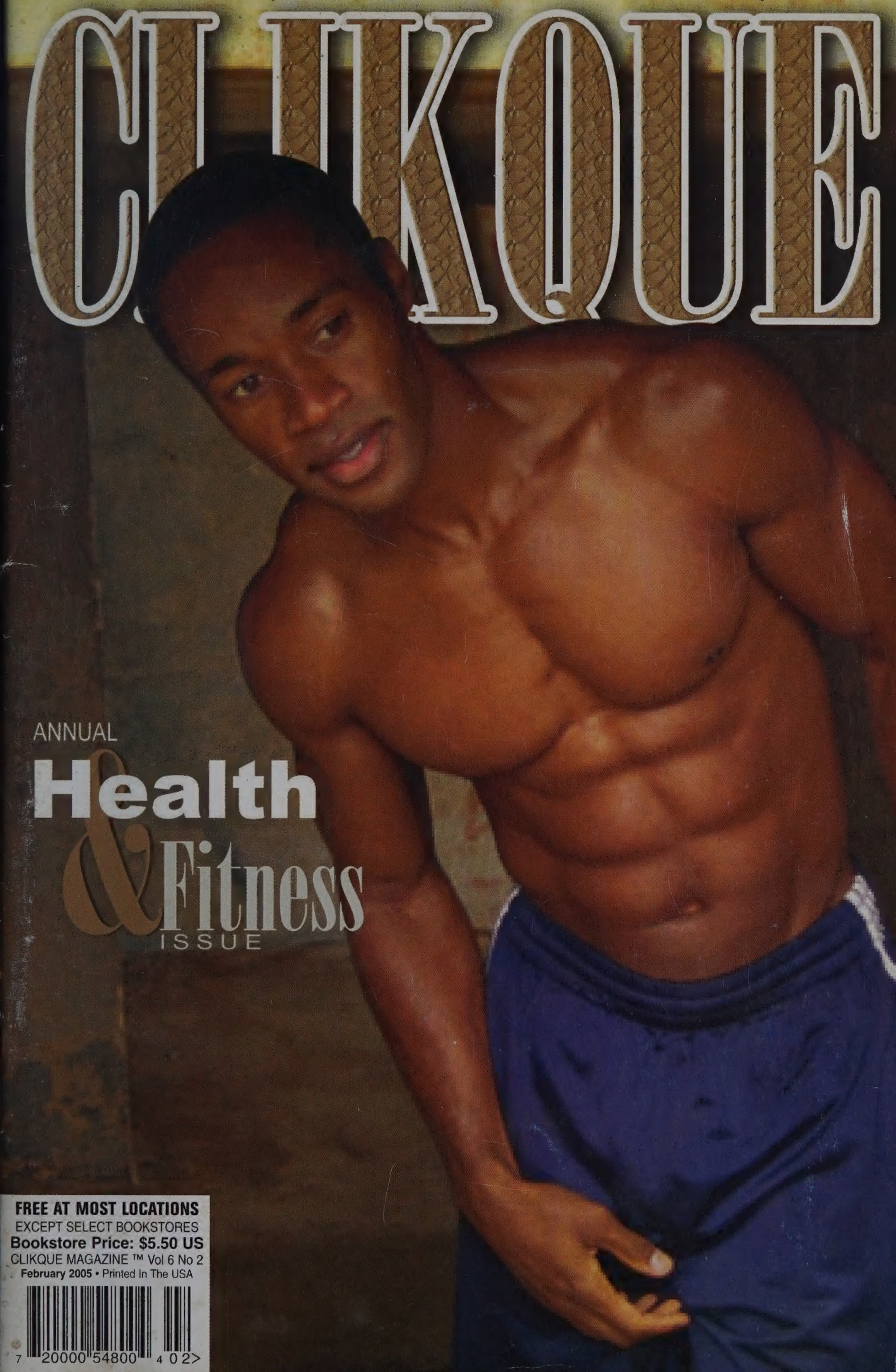

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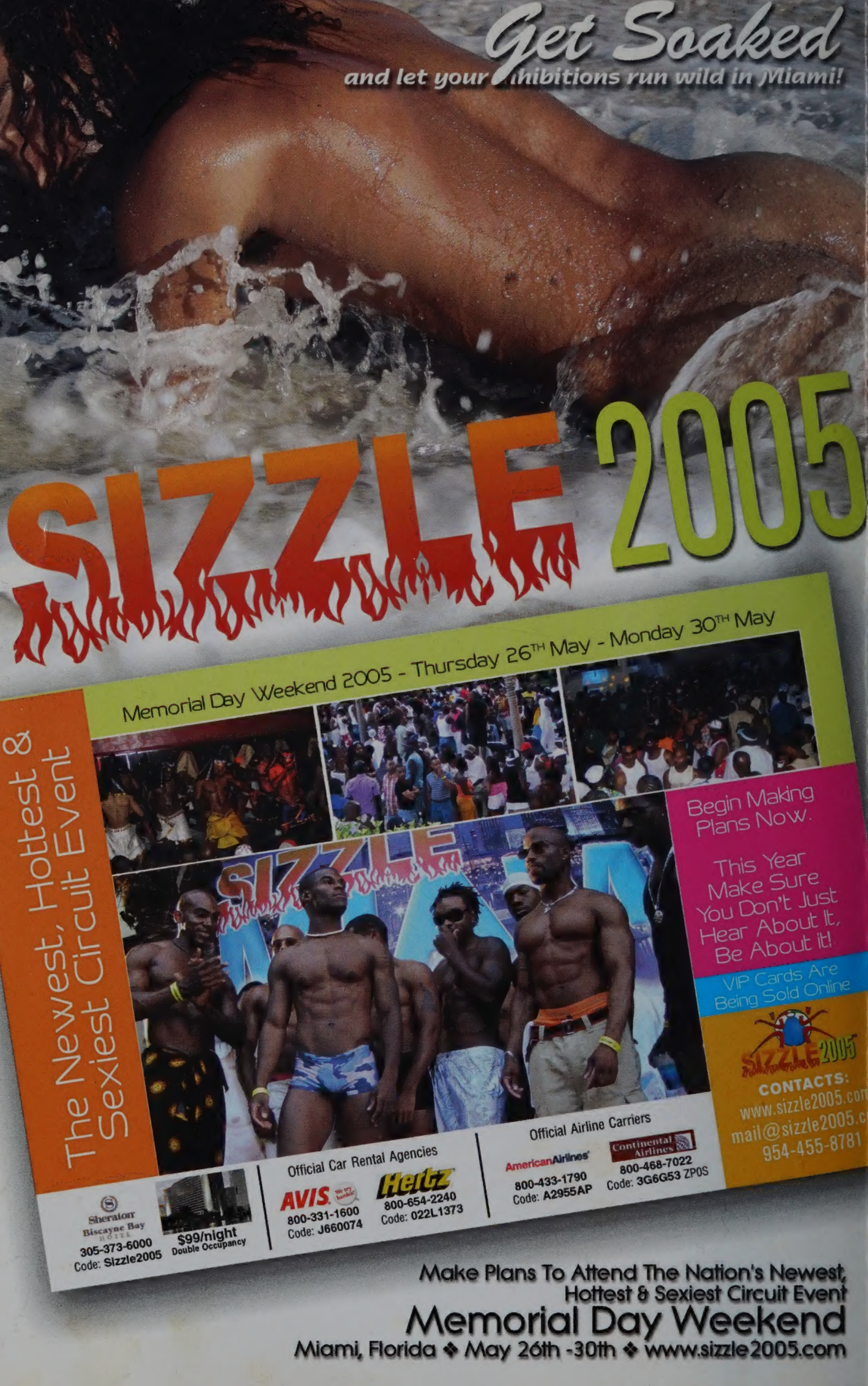
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GUEST EDITORIAL

BY Jasmyne Cannick

How To Survive 2005

A Message To The Gay Leadership

So now we know that we have at most, four more years with President Bush as America's leader. We also know that the issue of gay marriage played a pivotal role in his re-election. Okay, let's get over it, re-group and get back out there.

America's LGBT leadership, whether they like it or not, before attempting to the move the marriage agenda forward again, had better bring people of color to the table from day one. We cannot and will not be the after thought when organizations need to publicly display diversity. From the messaging to the strategic mobilization of the LGBT community, we need to be there.

I don't ever want to see a white gay man stand before a camera again and equate his struggle to the Black civil rights movement. It doesn't help the thousands of Black gays who are also trying to message to the African-American community around this issue and only further divides our community with Blacks seeing gay as a white issue. When you talk about messaging to communities of color, in particular the Black community, that message would be better received coming from an African-American same-gender loving person to the Black community.

The executive leaders of our LGBT organizations need to take a closer look at the diversity within their own organizations for 2005. It's not enough to have programs headed by people of color for people of color. People of color need to be on the communications team and the development team as well. The reason that most gay organizations can't penetrate the Black press is because you don't have a Black person on your communications team pitching the Black press. Why don't African-Americans donate to your organization? Well, part of the reason is that you don't have African-Americans on your development team. The other reason is that Blacks don't typically feel that these national gay organizations have their community's best interest at heart. This all goes to say that there is work that needs to be done.

Now I know this is going to be hard for some to swallow. Why? Because the gay leadership seems to think that what works for the white community will work for all communities. Not so. These organizations are going to have to invest in people of color to have a winning strategy. This includes the same salary, benefits and support that you give your other team members.

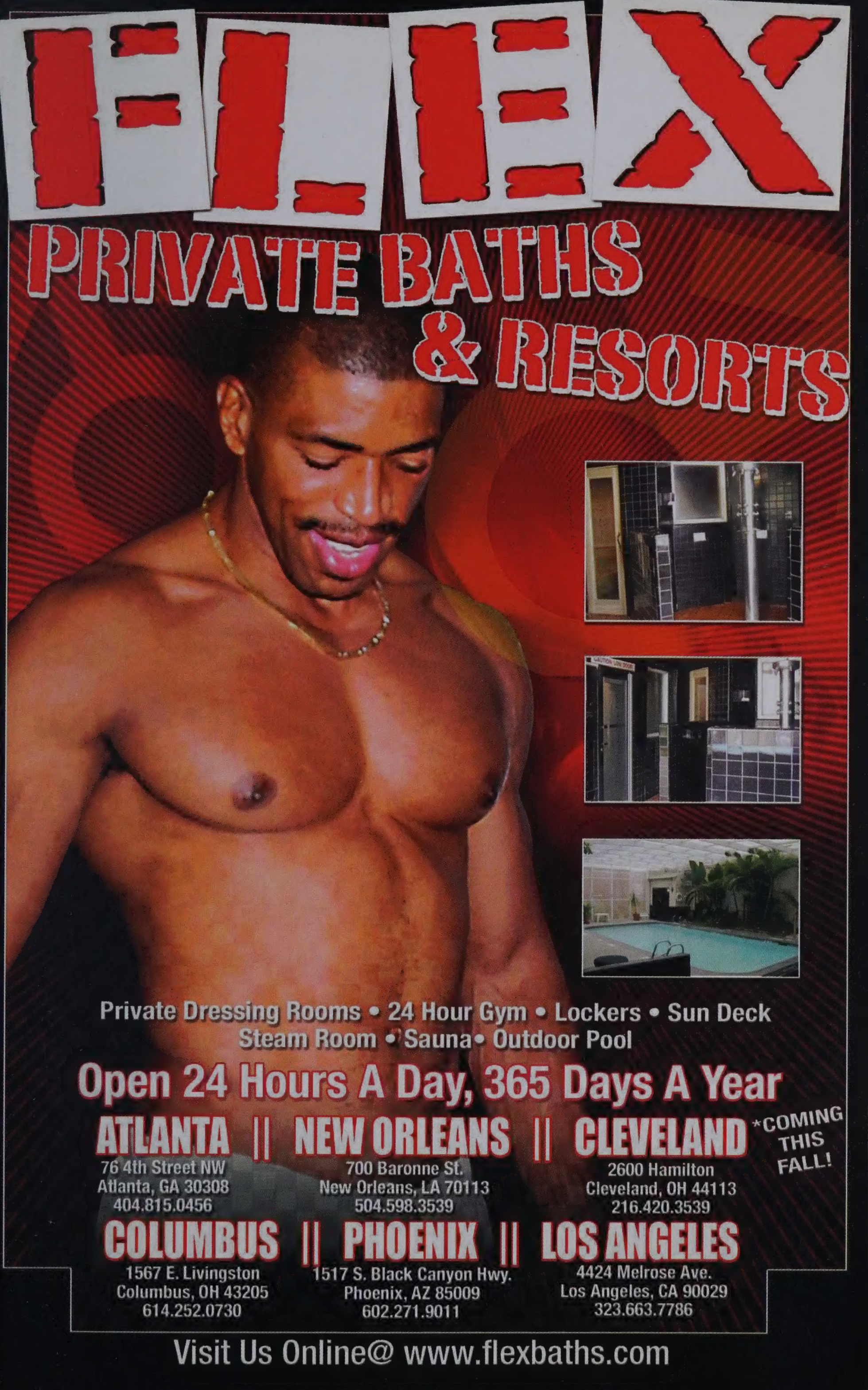
Having worked for one of the largest and well funded gay organizations in the country I can tell you first hand the feeling of isolation within an organization when you are the token Black hired only to work with the Black community. Aside from my position, my views, opinions and ideas in other areas of the organization were not needed. Consequently, this organization does not have any credibility in the Black gay community today and is till scratching their heads trying to figure out why.

At the end of the day, Blacks played the most powerful role in the 2005 election and most of the gay organizations were unable to message to the African-American community around the issue of gay marriage. Thank God for the National Black Justice Coalition, an ad hoc coalition of Black LGBT leaders who came together this year to message directly to the African-American community on this issue.

America's gay leadership is going to have to develop a whole new approach to addressing marriage equality. What I learned as well as many other Black same-gender loving persons is that we cannot even begin to address marriage equality until we first address Black sexuality and homophobia. I think a lot of Black gays jumped aboard the marriage train because our voices were excluded from the conversation in the beginning, Black pastors were being used by right wing conservatives to message to the Black community and because we do want the right to marry. In the end, a couple of things happened in 2004. First, Black gays were represented more in the media this year, including Black media than ever before in history. What that means is that we were visible in our own community which is a huge accomplishment. Next, more Black LGBT persons mobilized around this issue than ever before. Again, I feel this is because our community was being used to win votes for the GOP and it was so blatant that even those of us that are not active, had to get out there.

Diversity means more than just having people of color on your website and over people of color programs. It means having the influence and perspectives of people of color at every level in your organization and movement. That way we can tell you what works and doesn't work in our communities both gay and at large. The LGBT community cannot push forward without gays of color and together we need to develop a strategy that works towards addressing LGBT issues in all communities.

A frequent presence on television and radio, Jasmyne Cannick has appeared on numerous media programs, including Black Entertainment Television News, the Tavis Smiley Show, Fox News and the Bev Smith Show. She has also been featured or quoted in articles in the Associated Press, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, St. Petersburg Times, Africana.com and Bet.com. Cannick, 27, is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, a board member of the National Black Justice Coalition, Los Angeles Black Gay Pride and co-producer of the new cable series Noah's Arc, America's First Black Gay Series. She lives in Los Angeles and can be reached via www.jasmynecannick.com .



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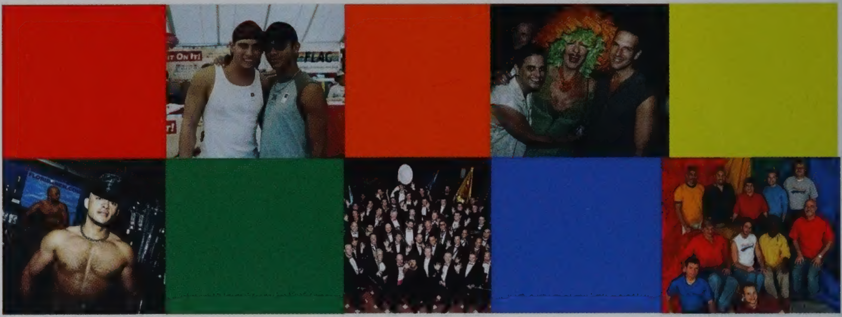

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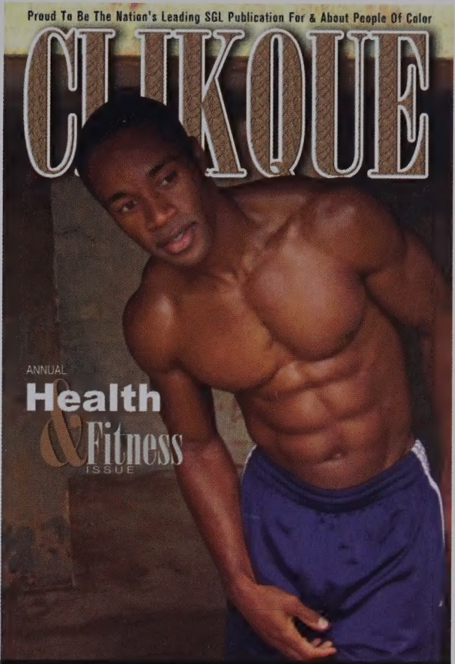
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So I'm Gay . . .

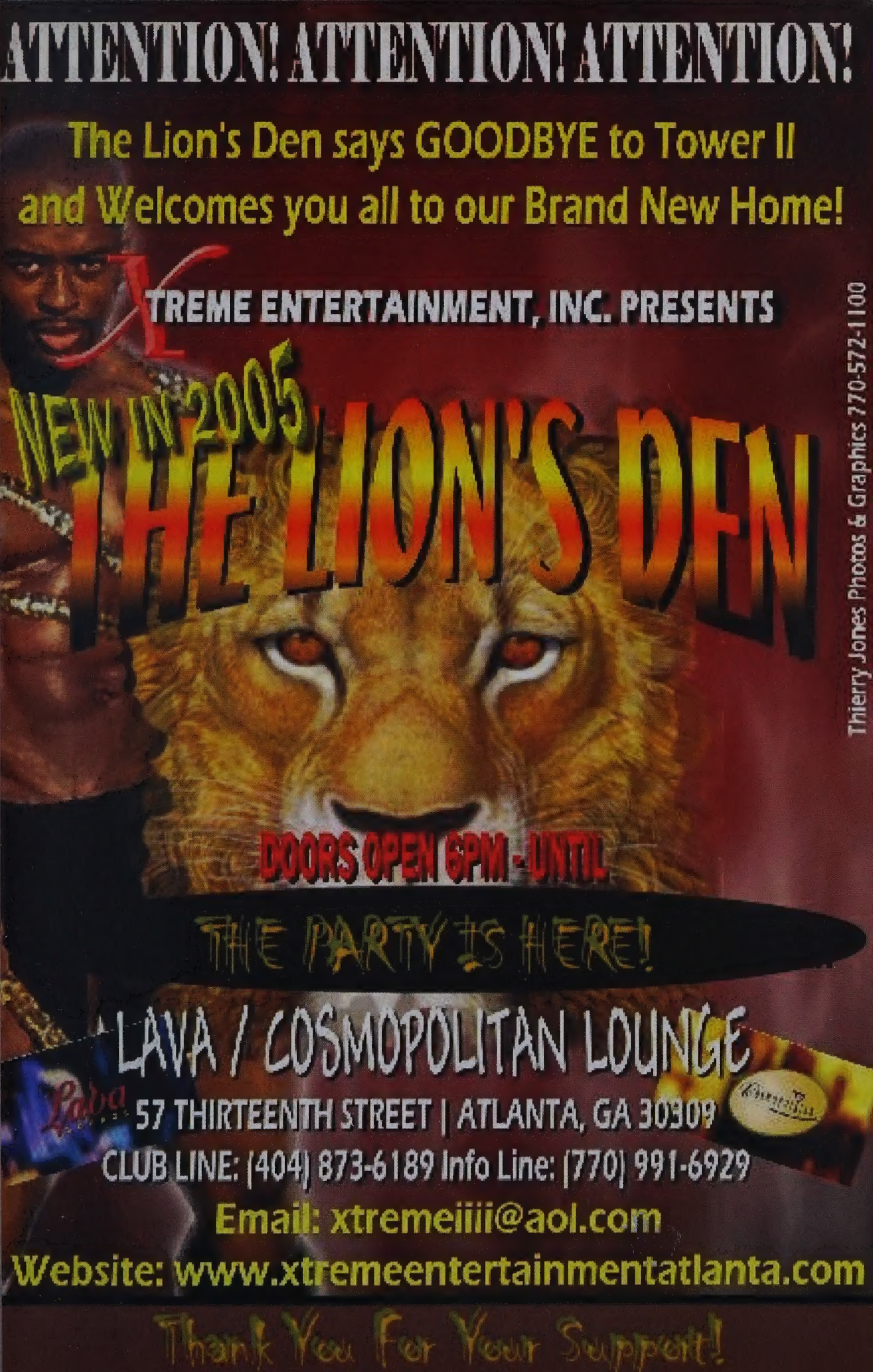
By **James Broussard**, YMSM Interventions & Media Coordinator

> *"I felt like a caged bird suddenly given the power to fly high above the trees into the clouds. When I looked down, I had the ability to see the world and its beauty defined by sprawling fields full of green grass, rolling hills, and gently moving ocean waves. The simple joys of life, such as birds singing or the exploding colors of budding flowers, taught me the values of appreciating what you have at that moment when you have it. I could see and appreciate lovers walking hand in hand. There is something profound about freedom and reclaiming your life. I had lingered in the pits, but now I felt high as the sky. It was euphoric."* (Excerpt from Passion Marks by Lee Hayes, a book about domestic violence in a relationship between two Black gay men)

Like a caterpillar turns into a butterfly; the experience of being a Black and gay man in America is an existence that for me has been a metamorphosis; but, then again, when I think about it, it's the same for everyone. It's what we call life; from infants to toddlers to teenagers to grown ass men, we change, we grow, we mature, and we evolve, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically. Nevertheless, I am Black, and I am gay, so this is my experience, my life, my moment in time on this planet, and to me it is beautiful and unique beyond explanation . . . I hope you are enlightened

I'm one of those rare Black gay guys who has no issue with anyone knowing I'm gay. My understanding, my insight, and my acceptance of my sexuality came quick, no hang-ups, no drama, no tears. Valentines' Day 2000 I had a Valentine of the opposite sex, a heterosexual female, and I realized as we gazed lovingly into one another's eyes in a posh and lavishly decorated restaurant in New Orleans' contemporary Warehouse District, it was not her I longed to kiss, or hug, or see naked. I didn't want to give the stunning platinum bracelet with diamonds from Zales to her. I wanted Ben to have it. Ben, the first guy I had ever kissed, the first guy I ever said "I love you" to. From me to him on Valentines' Day. He should have been sitting across from me sipping champagne and stuffing his face with shrimp cocktail, but he was out entertaining his hetero, just as I was. I realized right then and there that I was gay. I wasn't bisexual, I wasn't trisexual (try anything once or twice), and I most definitely wasn't confused. I was gay; I liked men. (Now, for those of you who have never thought about this or who just don't know it, you are not gay because you have sex with a man - it's a lot more than that. It's about an innate spiritual and physical attraction to males and an intrinsic and beautiful connection with the same gender.) I wanted to hold hands with a man, with Ben, around Xavier's campus, like all the heteros did. I wanted to go out to dinner with a man, go to the movies with a man, pamper a man, be pampered by a man, and love a man, preferably a Black man but I'm not caught up on race, just an affinity to. I wanted to do all these things openly without fear of being persecuted, shunned, and ridiculed. However, she . . . was in the way; she . . . was fucking it all up, fucking up my life royally. Why was I sitting at this table across from this girl? I kept the bracelet, needless to say. She got a hug and a kiss on the cheek at the end of the night. The next morning when I woke up, mentally and emotionally, I knew I was gay, and it was fine with me. God made me in His image; He

SO I'M GAY CONTINUES ON PAGE 10



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SO I'M GAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

knows I like boys. I went to church every Sunday with my parents in Lafayette, Louisiana, where I grew up, and the influence of this predominantly White Roman Catholic church that preached against homosexuality didn't make me think I was an abomination or less of a man because I was gay. However, in the Black community, the church is a huge influence on how young Black men see themselves and their peers. Many believe that the church is the Word of God, so if your pastor says gay men are sick, repugnant, and going to hell, then when they look in the mirror they see a man who is not really a man and who will spend eternity suffering in a fiery pit of damnation. Most Black Christian churches condemn homosexuality and back up their beliefs with the Bible. Homosexual youth often go to church with family as expected, only to hear the condemnation of themselves echoed by the entire church. Where is the loving God the church is supposed to be echoing? What love exists in condemning people for who they are and for who they love? Each youth sits there listening to parents, siblings, friends, and religious leaders tear apart their feelings of love and their self esteem, not speaking up out of fear for emotional well-being, financial stability, and often physical safety.

Sometimes, most of the time, I think people already know I'm gay. Not because I'm overly effeminate or outrageously flamboyant or anything, but that's just how comfortable I am with my sexuality. (Note: The word gay is not synonymous with feminine, and gay does not mean girl.) When people see me, they see a Black man; in my mind, I think they comprehend my being gay just the same as they see me and know I'm Black. Weird, huh? Instead of being scared or anxious about someone finding out I'm gay, I'm surprised and sometimes annoyed when people don't know, go figure. I call it "gay-centric."

The security that I felt when coming out is not shared by all. I didn't always know this; I really thought coming out was simple for everyone. How naïve and ignorant I was. I didn't know kids were disowned by their families or sent to special homes that focus on reversing the gayness or taking away the sin. I used to tell people who knew they were gay but didn't want their friends or family to know to just tell them. "What's the big deal?" I would say. I was completely ignorant to the ramifications of what a bomb dropped of that magnitude can do. Moreover, I never saw telling one's family or friends, people who love you and whom you love that you're gay as a bomb. But it is, for many it really is! Guys run away from home, become seriously depressed, and some even commit suicide because they can't handle their homosexuality, or rather they can't handle the disapproval, negativity, disgrace, and ignorance that so often comes when one is gay. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Task Force on Youth Suicide issued a report in January 2001 concluding that lesbian and gay youth may constitute "up to thirty-five percent of completed suicides annually" and that "homosexuals of both sexes are four to six times more likely to attempt suicide than are heterosexuals." Homosexual youth can not speak up because of fear and misunderstanding. When no one speaks up for them, no one stops the pain. Many teens can't handle it and kill themselves. This is the meaning of

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the commonly known phrase, "Silence equals death."

To hate yourself, to truly dislike who you are is a powerful force. Often times, what makes it so especially hard for gay teens is the very thing that protects them, their invisibility. What African American parent would be making jokes about Black people at the kitchen table? What Jewish family would sit around casually commenting on how God condemns the Jews? But the gay teen sitting there in their cloak of presumed heterosexuality laughs outwardly or joins in expressing shared disgust, while yet another piece of their self-esteem is smashed. Of the many emotions a gay man feels, perhaps the most powerfully persuasive is fear. The fear of being found out is real, and the worry does not end there. For adults these fears are horrible enough, but for a gay teenager, who lacks experience and life skills to cope with them, such fears can be devastating. Who are role models for gay youth? Who do the gay youth identify with? No one knows their secrets, no one shares their pain.

Unlike adults, youth do not have the ability to think about life and life events in terms of the broader perspective or "big picture." They tend to believe that all the unhappiness they are feeling and experiencing will go on forever. Everything that is happening to them is in the "here and now" and they can't begin to think that there might be a brighter future just around the corner. They often don't believe that anyone can help them, and they feel helpless and hopeless within their situation. They believe they can either choose to live with the pain, or stop it by ending their life. Unfortunately, their ultimate decision could be fatal.

However, not all gay and questioning teens commit suicide to end their pain and suffering. Many internalize the negative messages that their families, church, and society bombard them with and put harmful and self-destructive things in their lives to fill the abyss of self hatred and agony that is their heart. A good friend of mine, a very intelligent and charismatic man, calls this "suicide in longevity." Things like excessive drinking, and substance abuse, and having risky and unsafe sex because they're looking for love and acceptance can all lead to high incidence of HIV. These are superficial and temporary forms of self medicating the body and soul.

Being a youth and dealing with feelings and thoughts that you are gay can be an overwhelming experience, some feel as though they can't breathe, an anxiety attack of sorts. The more of us that become more gay positive, begin to raise our voices in self-awareness, begin to self-determine who we are, and become more visible not only in our own gay ghettos, yet within our larger communities and the larger society, the lethal silence and invisibility of homosexual youth will diminish. The more spaces created and access to those spaces that offer safety and nourishment of mind, body, and soul, gay youth will begin to see themselves as significant, powerful, and creative and will come to the realization that the world is a much better place with them in it. If silence equals death, then proper communication and information is the one way to insure life.

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100 Ways To Live FOREVER

No drugs. No bypasses. No scars. Just solid DIY advice on how to keep your heart pumping

By: Adam Campbell & Brian Good

In 1991, you started using condoms. Sunscreen followed in '95. And this spring you were wearing a surgical mask when the Toronto Blue Jays visited Fenway. Your policy on life-threatening diseases: maximum protection.

So what are you doing to protect your heart? Most guys leave that job up to their rib cage. After all, your heart feels fine. And, really, it's out of your hands. Isn't it?

In a few words: No, you ignorant 911-caller-in-waiting. Half of the men in America are laying down plaque for that special day when they keel over (continued below...)

We want to keep you upright, so we combed thousands of scientific studies to compile the most important advice you'll ever read in this magazine: 100 tips, tricks, and techniques that will protect you from the number-one killer of men (and their wives). Make them part of your life, and you may just live long enough to see the United States pay its national debt, the Cubs win the World Series, and Madonna retire.

1. GRILL A STEAK. You may think it's bad for your heart, but you'd be wrong. Beef contains immunity-boosting selenium as well as homocysteine-lowering B vitamins. And up to 50 percent of the fat is the heart-healthy monounsaturated variety.

2. WATCH A SCARY MOVIE. Anything that causes your heart to race--slasher flicks, a good book, even being in love--also makes your heart stronger, according to researchers at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Upsetting the rhythm once in a while is like hitting your heart's reset button, which helps it keep on ticking.

3. RUN INDOORS ON HAZY DAYS. Researchers in Finland found that exercising outside on hot, hazy days when air pollution is at its worst can cut the supply of oxygen in the blood, making it more likely to clot.

4. TELL YOUR MATE TO BUTT OUT. Or you may leave -- in a hearse. Researchers in Greece found that individuals who were exposed to cigarette smoke for just 30 minutes three times a week had a 26 percent greater risk of developing heart disease than people who rarely encountered secondhand smoke.

5. DIVE IN THE POOL. U.K. researchers found that men who burn just 50 calories a day in strenuous activities like swimming and hiking are 62 percent less likely to die of heart disease than men who burn nearly seven times as many calories -- 340 per day -- during less active pursuits like walking and golfing.

6. FIGHT CHOLESTEROL WITH FAT. A group of 17 Australian men with high cholesterol swapped macadamia nuts for 15 percent of the calories in their diets, and their total cholesterol dropped by between 3 and 5 percent, while their HDL (good) cholesterol rose by nearly 8 percent. The reason: Macadamias are the best natural source of monounsaturated fat.

7. BIKE AWAY THE BLUES. Men who are suffering from depression are more than twice as likely to develop heart disease as guys who aren't depressed. So c'mon, get happy. In a trial of 150 men and women, Duke researchers found that after just 3 months of treatment, antidepressants and exercise were equally effective at relieving almost all symptoms of depression.

8. MEDITATE 20 MINUTES A DAY. According to Thomas Jefferson University researchers, this daily downtime may reduce your anxiety and depression by more than 25 percent. And that's important, since a University of Florida study found that patients with coronary artery disease who had the most mental stress were three times more likely to die during the period of the study than those with the least stress.

9. BUY A PUNCHING BAG. A Harvard study found that men who express their anger have half the risk of heart disease compared with men who internalize it.

10. TAKE ASPIRIN. Researchers at the University of North Carolina found that regular aspirin consumption cut the risk of coronary heart disease by 28 percent in people who had never had a heart attack or stroke, but were at heightened risk. For maximum impact on your blood pressure, take a low dose just before bed.

11. DRINK CRANBERRY JUICE. University of Scranton scientists found that volunteers who drank three 8-ounce glasses a day for a month increased their HDL-cholesterol levels by 10 percent, enough to cut heart-disease risk by almost 40 percent. Buy 100 percent juice that's at least 27 percent cranberry.

12. RISE AND DINE. In a study of 3,900 people, Harvard researchers found that men who ate breakfast every day were 44 percent less likely to be overweight and 41 percent less likely to develop insulin resistance, both risk factors for heart disease.

13. FORTIFY WITH FOLIC ACID. A study published in the British Medical Journal found that people who consume the recommended amount each day have a 16 percent lower risk of heart disease than those whose diets are lacking in this B vitamin. Good sources of folic acid: asparagus, broccoli, and fortified cereal.

14. TAKE THE STAIRS. People who walked an extra 4,000 to 5,000 steps each day lowered their blood pressure by an average of 11 points, according to a small study at the University of Tennessee.

15. ORDER A CHEF'S SALAD. Leafy greens and egg yolks are both good sources of lutein, a phytochemical that carries heart-disease-fighting antioxidants to your cells and tissues.

16. REFILL THE BOWL. A study in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition reports that two servings of

100 WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

whole-grain cereal (Cheerios count) a day can reduce a man's risk of dying of heart disease by nearly 20 percent.

17. DRINK MORE TEA. An American Heart Association study found that men who drank 2 cups of tea a day were 25 percent less likely to die of heart disease than guys who rarely touched the stuff. The reason: flavonoids in the tea, which not only improve blood vessels' ability to relax, but also thin the blood, reducing clotting.

18. MEASURE BP AFTER EXERCISE. Ask your doctor to measure your blood pressure after a cardiac stress test. "The numbers will be higher, but studies show they'll also be a better indicator of your overall health," says Kerry Stewart, M.D., of Johns Hopkins University.

19. DECAFFEINATE. Drinks that contain caffeine increase blood pressure by nearly 4 points, on top of speeding up your heart rate by an average of 2 beats per minute. It's enough to push a borderline heart problem into the danger zone.

20. JOIN A GROUP. Any group. According to research from the University of Chicago, lonely people have a harder time dealing with stress and are at greater risk of heart disease than people with a wide circle of friends.

21. CHOOSE DARK CHOCOLATE. Cocoa contains flavonoids that thin the blood and keep it from clotting (like it does just before you clutch your chest and expire). And at least a third of the fat in chocolate is oleic acid, which is the same healthy, monounsaturated fat found in olive oil. Dove dark chocolate bars retain as many flavonoids as possible.

22. TRADE THE SALT FOR MRS. DASH. A 20-year study in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that overweight men with the highest sodium intakes were 61 percent more likely to die of heart disease than those with lower intakes.

23. HAVE A DRINK EVERY OTHER DAY. A Boston study of 38,000 men found that men who drink alcohol three or four times a week have a 32 percent lower risk of heart attack than men who drink less than once a week. Moderate amounts of alcohol raise HDL cholesterol levels and keep the blood thin, reducing the threat of artery-clogging clots. Drinking more frequently is fine (up to the limit at which your friends -- or the state police -- gather and confront you), but won't provide additional heart protection, the study's authors report.

24. TOUCH HIM. Ten minutes of skin-to-skin contact (hand-holding, hugs) with your mate can help keep your blood pressure and pulse from spiking during stressful times, according to University of North Carolina researchers.

25. DOUBLE THE TOMATO SAUCE. The lycopene in tomatoes prevents the harmful buildup of cholesterol on artery walls. So double up the sauce on your pizza and pasta.

100 WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER
CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

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100 WAYS... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

26. GET YOUR DAILY B VITAMINS. A study at the Cleveland Clinic found that men with diets low in B vitamins were more than twice as likely to develop heart disease as men with higher levels in their systems.

27. GO FISHING FOR TUNA. Omega-3 fats in tuna help strengthen heart muscle, lower blood pressure, and prevent clotting--as well as reduce levels of potentially deadly inflammation in the body. Plus, tuna's high in protein. Research shows that consuming more protein may lower a man's risk of heart disease by nearly 26 percent.

28. ADD GROUND FLAXSEED TO YOUR FOOD. It's a natural source of omega-3s, for men who don't like fish.

29. FARTLEK! "Losing as little as 5 to 10 percent of your body weight will reduce your visceral-fat stores by 25 to 40 percent," says Jean-Pierre Despres, a professor of human nutrition at Laval University in Quebec City. A study in Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise found that doing fartlek -- alternating speeds throughout your run -- helps you lose weight faster than moving at a steady pace.

30. TAKE UP ROWING. A study in the European Journal of Applied Physiology found that, compared with running, rowing uses more muscle and causes your heart to pump more blood through the body, resulting in greater overall gains in cardiovascular fitness.

31. SCHEDULE A FLU SHOT. A New England Journal of Medicine study found that people who'd been vaccinated against the flu were also 19 percent less likely to be hospitalized for heart disease than people who hadn't gotten the shot.

32. BE A SPONGE. Loma Linda University researchers found that drinking five or more 8-ounce glasses of water a day could help lower your risk of heart disease by up to 60 percent--exactly the same drop you get from stopping smoking, lowering your LDL (bad) cholesterol numbers, exercising, or losing a little weight.

33. EAT GRAPEFRUIT. One a day can reduce arterial narrowing by 46 percent, lower your bad-cholesterol level by more than 10 percent, and help drop your blood pressure by more than 5 points.

34. ORDER GARLIC BREAD. In addition to lowering cholesterol and helping to fight off infection, eating garlic may help limit damage to your heart after a heart attack or heart surgery. Researchers in India found that animals who were fed garlic regularly had more heart-protecting antioxidants in their blood than animals who weren't.

35. TOP YOUR TOAST. Black currant jelly is a good source of quercetin--an antioxidant that Finnish researchers believe may improve heart health by preventing the buildup of the free radicals that can damage arterial walls and allow plaque to penetrate.

36. SCRAMBLE AN EGG. They're relatively low in saturated fat, and they're packed with betaine, a compound that helps lower homocysteine levels in the blood by as much as 75 percent. Eggs are one of the few good food sources of betaine.

37. TAKE CHROMIUM. According to new research from Harvard, men with low levels of chromium in their systems are significantly more likely to develop heart problems. You need between 200 and 400 micrograms of chromium per day--more than you're likely to get from your regular diet. "Look for a supplement labeled chromium picolinate--it's the most easily absorbed by the body," says Gary Evans, Ph.D., a chromium expert.

38. DO MORE CRUNCHES. A study of 8,000 Canadians found that individuals who could do the most situps in 1 minute were also the least likely to die over a period of 13 years. The reason? Strong abs equal more muscle and less belly fat, and the less abdominal fat you have, the lower your risk of heart disease becomes.

39. DON'T DOUBLE DIP. Heart patients who took ibuprofen along with their aspirin had a nearly 75 percent higher risk of premature death than those taking only aspirin, according to a study, conducted in Scotland, of more than 7,000 participants.

40. PAIR UP. Married men are less likely to die of heart disease than bachelors. Toronto-based researchers studied 100 men with mild high blood pressure and found that after 3 years of marriage, the happily married men had healthier hearts than their unmarried brothers. Just choose your bride wisely, or your heart will be broken and sick.

41. THEY REALLY ARE GOOD FOR YOUR HEART. Beans are a great source of homocysteine-lowering folate and cholesterol-lowering soluble fiber. Tulane University researchers found that people who ate four or more servings a week had a 22 percent lower risk of developing heart disease (and 75 percent fewer camping companions) than less-than-once-a-week bean eaters.

42. ORDER TAKE-OUT. Lots of Chinese and Indian foods contain ginger or turmeric-- spices packed with natural anti-inflammatories. "Anything that helps keep levels of inflammation low is good for your heart," says Andrew Weil, M.D., author of Eating Well for Optimum Health.

43. WASH YOUR HANDS. German researchers followed 570 people for an average of 3 years and found that those with the most antibodies (from fighting off infections) in their systems also had the most significant clogging in the arteries of their hearts, necks, and legs. Use liquid soap. Germs can live on bars.

44. READ A GOOD BOOK. Swiss researchers found that men who recited poetry for half an hour a day lowered their heart rates significantly, reducing their stress levels and possibly their heart-disease risk. You don't need to go all Emily Dickinson; just try reading aloud to your wife or kids instead. Or to yourself. (But not on the subway.)

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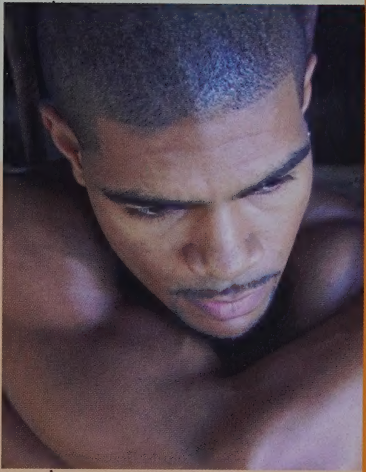

45. SWAP HONEY FOR SUGAR. Researchers at the University of Illinois found that honey has powerful antioxidant qualities that help combat cardiovascular disease, while sugar consumption can lower your levels of HDL cholesterol, potentially increasing your risk of heart-related disorders.

46. SMILE. Researchers at Harvard kept tabs on 1,300 healthy men for 10 years. At the end of the study, they found that individuals with the most positive attitudes at the start of the trial were half as likely to have experienced heart problems as men with more negative attitudes.

47. FINISH YOUR DEGREE. California researchers found that women with 4-year or advanced degrees have a lower risk of heart disease than those who are less educated. The benefit comes from moving up the earnings ladder.

48. PLAY HARD. Any regular vigorous physical activity reduces your risk of cardiovascular disease, even if performed for only 5 to 10 minutes at a time, says John Yarnell, Ph.D., of Queen's University of Belfast, who authored a study on the subject.

49. PEE IN THE BUSHES. After studying 40 people with heart disease, researchers at Taiwan University in China found that the stress of having a full bladder increases heart rate by an average of 9 beats per minute and constricts the flow of blood by 19 percent. Either could be enough to trigger a heart attack, says study author Tsai Chang-Her, M.D.

50. USE THE ROTISSERIE. Foods cooked at high temperatures produce blood compounds called advanced glycation end products, which researchers at Mount Sinai Hospital say reduce cell elasticity and increase heartdisease risk. Three fixes: Steam your vegetables, add marinade to your meat before grilling to keep it moist, and cook foods longer at lower temperatures.

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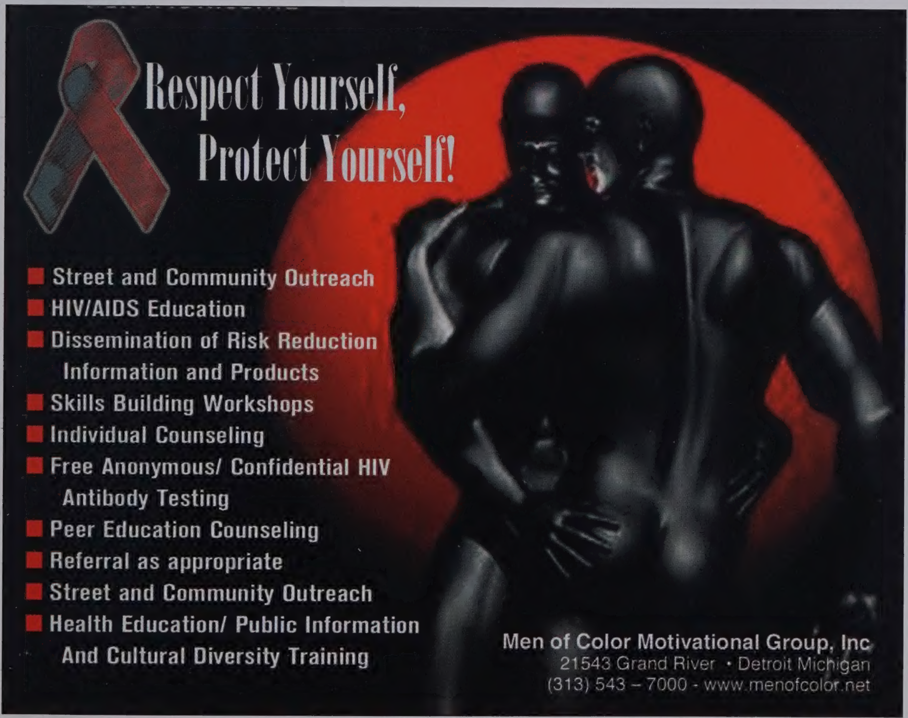
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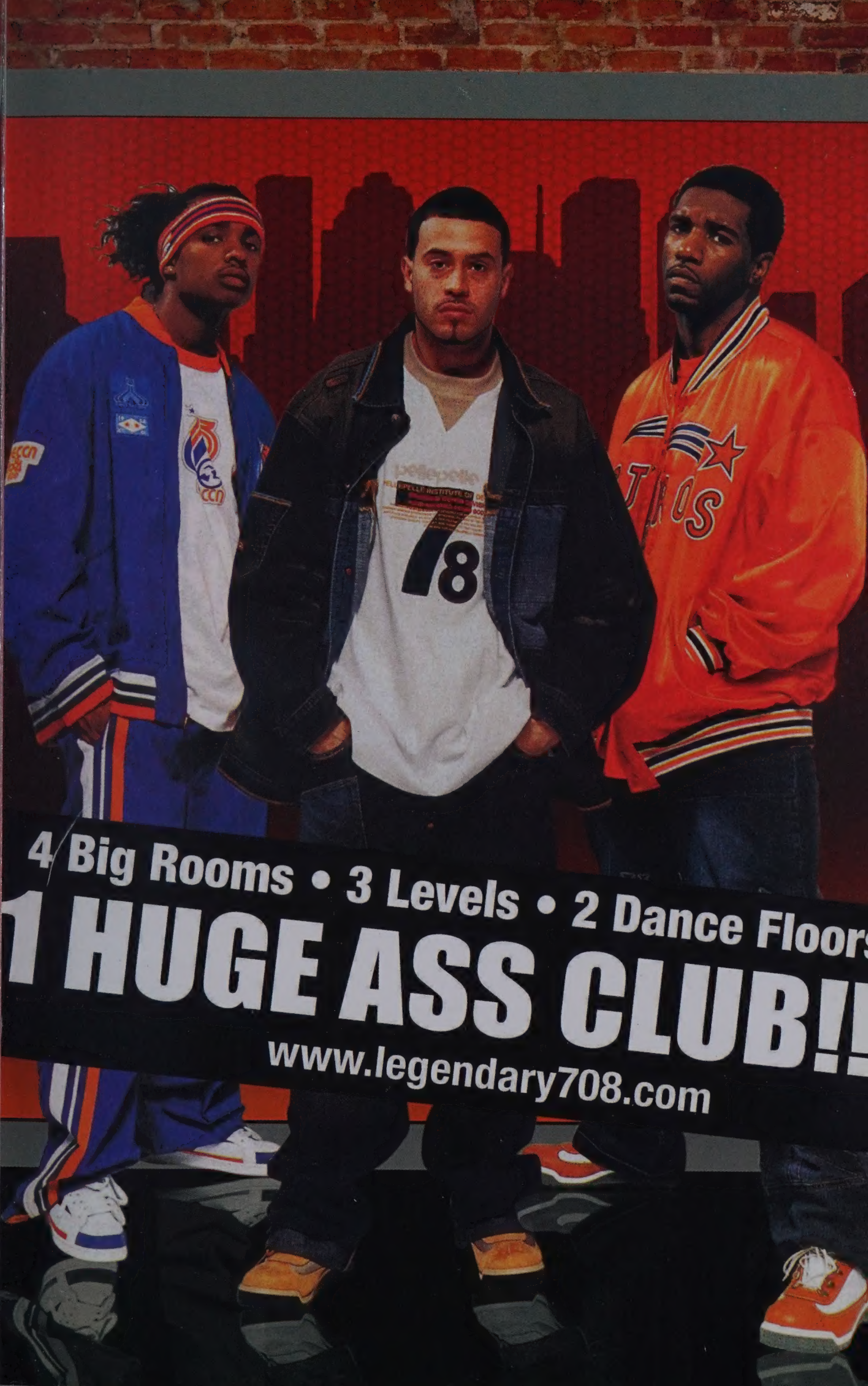
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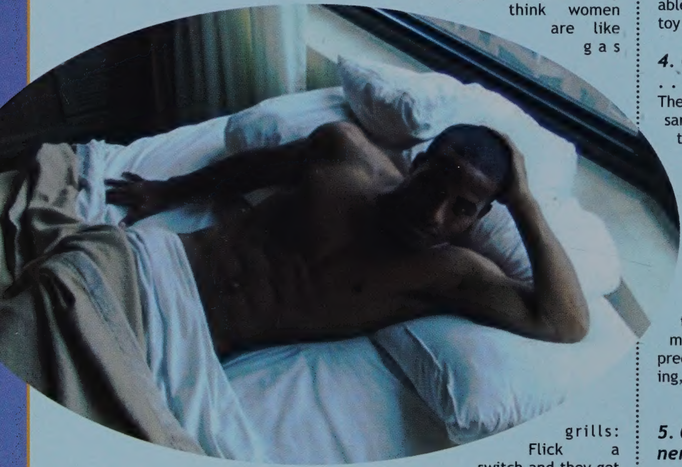
Get Some, Get More, Get Better

What are your sex goals for 2005?
Are you getting the sex you deserve?
By: Ted Spiker

1. How many times a week do you have sex?

The average guy has sex about twice a week if he's attached--a little less often (once) if he's single, a little more (three times) if he's single but shacking up. If you're not hitting your number, work on your approach. In a University of New Orleans study, nearly 70 percent of men reported that when they initiate sex, they overestimate their partners' desire to get it on, most likely because they think women are like gas grills: Flick a switch and they get hot. Talking to her--about work, family, the news--is the greatest aphrodisiac for a woman because it establishes a bond of sharing that she equates with romance. To you, it's conversation.



2. How stressful is your job?

You'd think stress would be as deflating to a sex life as a litter of puppies in the bedroom. But a stressful job (or even a dangerous one) involving some level of competition, as in law or sales, can actually improve it. "Real competition can drive up testosterone, which boosts libido," says Helen Fisher, Ph.D., author of Why We Love. "Being amped up by a high-powered, high-stress job is more likely to make you more sexually active" than idling in a cushy, low-key career. If work doesn't fire you up, seek a testosterone jolt in a recreational sports league. Men who get game increase testosterone levels by 15 percent, according to a Pennsylvania State University study. Even better, make her your steady doubles partner. The same study showed that women increased their libido-regulating testosterone by 49 percent during competition.

3. The most common sound to come from his mouth during sex is . . .

A Kinsey Institute study found that nearly one-quarter of women reported some distress in their sexual relationships in the preceding month. One of the most common causes of dissatisfaction: boredom. "The common denominator of satisfied couples is that they're very playful," says sex therapist Ava Cadell, Ph.D., author of The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Oral Sex. "My definition of sex is adult play. It should be fun and recreational. You should laugh and release all those pleasure endorphins. A sense of humor is an essential ingredient in great sex because it takes pressure off performance." Toys = instant play. Shop together at a toy store (the kids' kind) for playthings you can bring into the bedroom. Imagine the possibilities with washable paint, masks, water pistols, and toy handcuffs.

4. On a typical night out, we . . .

The average man's sex life stays the same or even improves once he ties the knot. To ensure this outcome, do what good pitchers do--throw changeups into your nightlife at least once a week. "Novelty is good for sex, and I don't just mean novel sex. Novelty in your social life," Fisher says. It can be as simple as skipping dinner to play miniature golf or listening to a live band instead of the car radio. Anything that makes the start of your date less predictable can change up the ending, as well.

5. Quick : List all of your partner's pleasure points. How many did you come up with?

A man should know at least 10 hot spots on his partner's body that drive him wild, says Cadell. Not knowing is a sign that you might not have enough colors on your palette to paint a sexual masterpiece. Simple technique--a kiss around the earlobe, a stroke between her toes--will help you find them. "Before you try to experiment with wild positions, be the best student of her body that you can be," says Gloria Brame, Ph.D., a sex therapist and author. To find more spots, slow down your kissing, feeling, and touching so dramatically that it barely feels as if you're moving. "It's all about slowing sex down to find where she's receptive," Brame says.

6. Your last compliment to Him was about . . .

The way a man feels about his body correlates with how inhibited he feels in bed. Sure, complimenting his

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shoes validates his taste, and saying something about his eyes reinforces the mates beauty. But praising the mate most guarded body parts--butt, thighs, waist--may be more important to your sexual satisfaction. "We spend our lives trying to look good for our men," Fisher says. "So a man who feels he's sending the right visual signals is pleased with himself." The very best time for a "nice ass" shout-out is when there's absolutely no chance that you'll be having sex soon, like before you walk into his mates parents' house for Sunday brunch. "It's a gift to compliment him outside of the bedroom," says Fisher. Praising his body at times other than when there's a bulge in your pants reinforces your sincerity.

7. Our average sex session lasts . . .

The minimum duration of sex--including seduction, foreplay, and intercourse--should be about 30 minutes. "Anything under half an hour is not satisfying to a woman," Cadell says. If you're not quite there yet, build up your sexual stamina by aiming to make each sexual encounter a few minutes longer than the one before. Research shows that the average man lasts about 14 minutes during intercourse, but you don't necessarily have to go that long to satisfy her. For every 30 minutes of sex, only one-quarter to one-third of the time should be spent on actual intercourse, Cadell says. This leaves plenty of time for the other things she likes--decoupage!--and you won't feel as if you're being clocked.

8. How often do you have quickies?

Foreplay lasts an average of 12 minutes, according to a study by the University of New Brunswick in Canada. One quickie a week is a significant sign that your relationship is strong--and that your partner understands your sexual needs, says Cadell. If he's nice enough to understand how much you need the 1-minute variety, reciprocate with the 1-hour kind (or at least the 12-minutes-of-foreplay kind).

9. How firm is your erect penis?

You'd think erections would be like martinis--the stiffer the better. "The theory is that it should be rock hard, but if it's hard enough for penetration, it's probably okay," says Jon Pryor, M.D., a professor of urologic surgery at the University of Minnesota and a Men's Health advisor. The best time to do an erectile self-check is first thing in the morning--when the smooth muscle around the penis is relaxed, allowing blood to engorge it. If you wake up with a limp biscuit, it could be a sign of poor bloodflow or low testosterone.

10. What's your blood pressure?

"High blood pressure is an important cause of arteriosclerosis--and arteriosclerosis blocking the arteries to the penis may be the most common cause of erectile dysfunction," says Thomas Lee, M.D., a professor of

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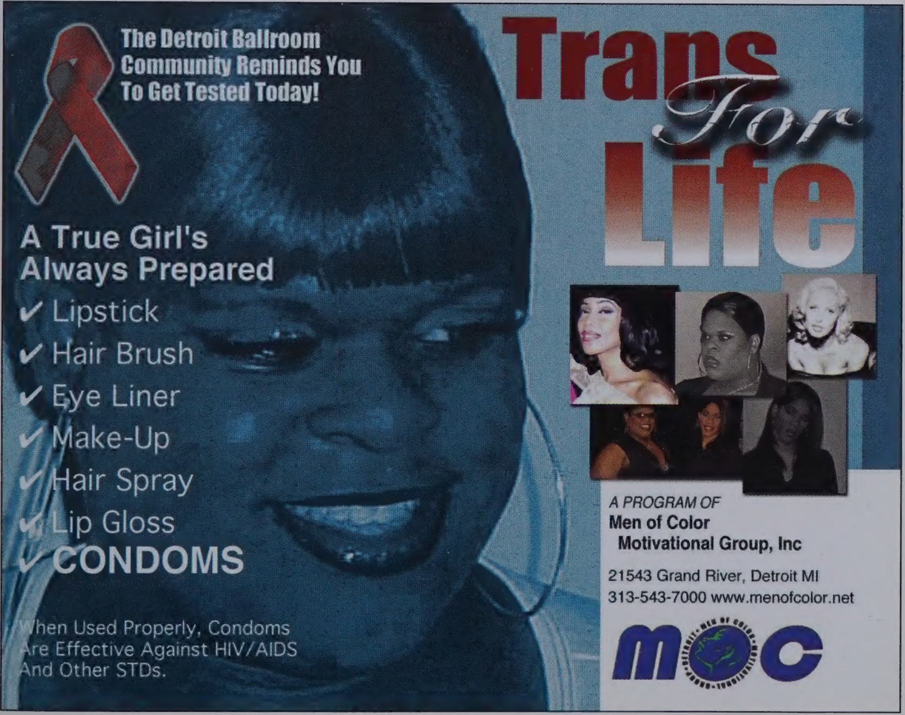

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GET SOME, GET MORE.... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

medicine at the Harvard medical school. Get your BP checked at least once a year. Losing weight and exercising will lower your blood pressure, as well as your body-mass index (BMI), another important number to know. Calculate yours. In a 2003 Harvard study of more than 30,000 men, guys with BMIs over 28 had more than a 30 percent higher risk of ED than did men whose BMIs were less than 23.

11. Does he know that you, uh, ring your own doorbell?

"The more often people masturbate, the more often they have sex--it's a surprising correlation," says Fisher. "It's probably because sexual arousal elevates testosterone and dopamine, and that can lead to more sex." A person who's cool with your self-pleasure--and who also masturbates--is likely to be a better lover because she knows what pleases her most, Brame says.

12. If your fantasy is for you to play Justin to her Janet, you would . . .

Healthy couples share information on what they like and don't like. "You don't have to spend hours talking about your sex life," Brame says. "What's important is sharing with your partner something that's deeply intimate." Fisher suggests talking at a safe, nonsexual time. Some People get intimacy just from talking, and this way, he won't feel pressured to perform right away--and that can make him more willing to put on the malfunctioning wardrobe another time.

13. How old is he?

When men are younger, they tend to have more sex, but the quality increases with age. "As he gets older, he'll lose a lot of inhibitions and become more comfortable with his body," Brame says. "And that's probably the single most important thing in sex--feeling at home in your own body."

14. What best describes what the two of you wear to bed?

Button-up pajamas send the message that he's not ready for sex. But sleeping in the nude doesn't necessarily indicate sexuality, either. The true green light: when he's giving some thought to what he wears--because that implies an element of seduction. Whether it's lace or a tight T-shirt, spending some time and thought preparing for bed is a sign that he's more open to sex. If he's a flannel guy, you can't quickly turn him into a garters-and-see-through-nightie fan. Start slowly: Buy him a pair of flannel boxers and a cotton tank top. He feels the comfort; you see some skin.

15. When was the last time you had sex someplace other than the bedroom?

"Don't always make love in the same place at the same time in the same position: It's the kiss of death in any relationship," Cadell says. In fact, you should always be striving to learn new techniques to satisfy him, like this one: Multitask while giving her oral sex. Lick him clitoris, stimulate his spot with one hand, and brush your other hand all through the intimate terrain of his butt. "If you can do that," Cadell says, "he's never going to let you go."

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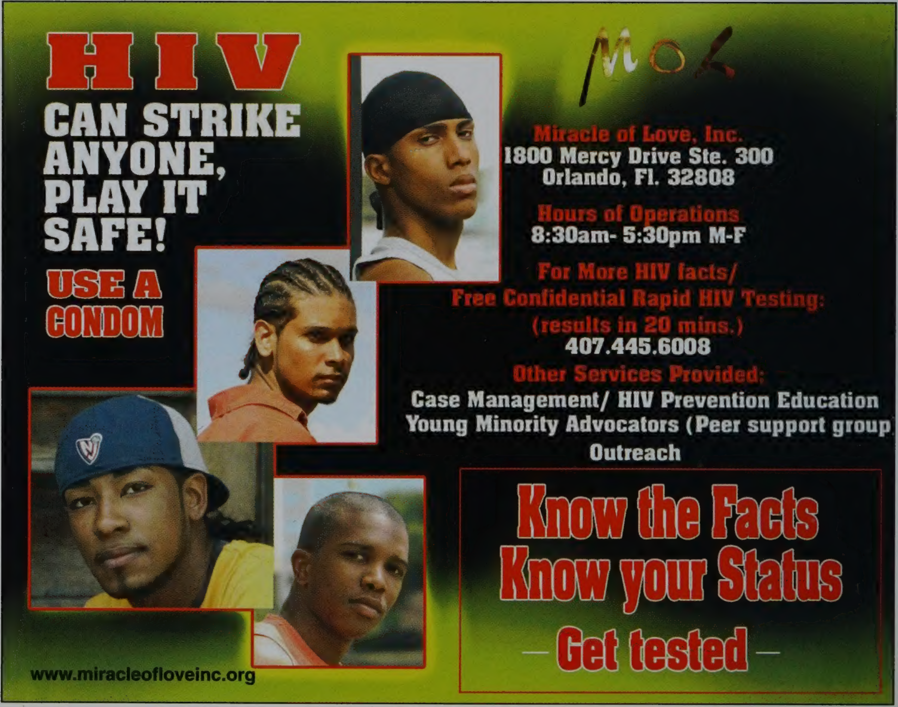

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By: Bob Drury

How Alcohol Works

Your buzz can kill. Here's how

BRAIN

The blood-brain barrier is a layer of epithelial cells that line the capillaries. Alcohol floats right through this gatekeeper 30 seconds after entering the bloodstream, disrupting nerve-cell communication. This interference boosts your confidence, shortens your attention span, and makes you say stupid things. Four drinks in 1 hour and you have a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08, the legal limit in most states

STOMACH

It's the first stop for alcohol, with 20 percent of any drink entering the bloodstream here within 5 minutes by slipping between the stomach's mucus-producing epithelial cells. The fuller your stomach, the slower the squeeze. Alcohol also jumpstarts the production of hydrochloric acid, which can eat through the stomach's protective mucus. That's why chronic boozers suffer from heartburn, inflammation, ulcers, and bleeding.

SMALL INTESTINE

After 20 minutes, the remaining 80 percent of alcohol arrives here and diffuses almost instantly into the blood, thanks to millions of microscopic fingers that carpet the intestinal lining. Alcohol blocks the absorption of water and sodium here, which is why a binge dehydrates you. Chronic imbibing interferes with enzymes that break down carbohydrates, proteins, and fats, thus reducing uptake of vitamins, minerals, and essential amino acids. That's why heavy drinkers are often undernourished.

PENIS

Drink too much in one sitting and you won't be able to think straight below the waist, either. That's because alcohol deadens nerve cells all over the body--the "atten-hut" command gets lost in transit. Also, eight of 10 problem drinkers suffer from chronic erectile dysfunction: A three-drinks-a-day habit causes high blood pressure, restricting bloodflow to the penis, and chronic boozing reduces testosterone production.

HEART

It's true that, in certain cases, moderate doses of alcohol may help keep the heart and its arteries clear--one or two drinks a day raises plaque-scavenging HDL cholesterol, softens artery walls, and makes blood cells less likely to clot. Heavier drinking, however, narrows the blood vessels and raises blood pressure, forcing the heart to pump harder. It also can short-circuit the electrical signals, causing an arrhythmia. Ultimately, alcohol abuse damages heart muscle, causing it to pump less efficiently. This can lead to heart failure.

LIVER

It eventually breaks down 90 percent of blood alcohol, starting to scrub within 10 minutes of your first sip. Blood absorbs alcohol much faster than the liver can eliminate it, which is why it takes an hour for the effects of each drink to wear off. Heavy drinking creates excess free radicals and collagen, a building block of scar tissue. Both crowd out or kill off healthy liver cells.

LUNGS

About 5 percent of blood alcohol quickly diffuses into the air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs. The alveoli warm the liquid alcohol, turning it into a vapor that's exhaled--which is how Breath- alyzers measure blood-alcohol levels. Long-term alcohol abuse depletes an important antioxidant in the lungs, leaving them vulnerable to permanent, life-threatening damage from pneumonia, sepsis, and other infections.

KIDNEYS

Five percent of blood alcohol is eliminated by the kidneys through urine. No, it's not your imagination: More liquid comes out than you put in. Why? Alcohol blocks the release of the hormone vasopressin, which normally stimulates the kidneys to conserve fluid and concentrate urine. Without it, urine becomes diluted with water. Average time from first sip to gotta-go: 20 minutes. If you chronically upset your fluid balance, waste isn't removed from your body as quickly. The result: Your body's healthy cells get a helping of junk along with every important nutrient. This leads to high blood pressure, liver damage, and kidney failure.

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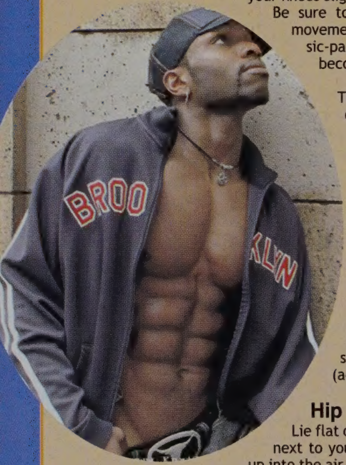
ABDOMEN & Chest Workouts

ABDOMEN

This exercise is great for the lower abs and helps fight off the distended belly many people have. Thought it's best to use a chin-up bar, any bar on any gym equipment is also suitable. Grab the bar so you can hang freely with your arms above your head and so that your legs cannot touch the ground. Once you are hanging in a fully extended position, bring your legs together and raise your knees upwards towards your chest. To focus on your obliques, twist your knees slightly to either side of your body (pictured). Be sure to squeeze your obliques throughout this movement. Do two sets of 20 and get ready! That sic-pack you've been dreaming of is closer to becoming a reality.



TIP: If hanging from the bar is too difficult or uncomfortable, try using wrist-wraps around the bar and hold on that way.

Classic Crunch (upper abs)

Lie on the floor on your back, with your feet planted firmly, knees bent. Bring your hands behind your head and be sure to keep enough space between your chin and your chest. Then, lift your upper body, head and shoulders off the floor so your shoulder blades move away from the floor. Lift slowly and squeeze as you reach the top of the movement. Hold for several seconds, and return to the starting position. Do two sets of twenty (advanced can do three sets).

Hip Thrust (lower abs)

Lie flat on you back. Keep your hands at your sides, next to your hips for added support. Raise your legs up into the air, keeping your legs extended directly above your hips. Lift with the lowest area of your abs so that your hips raise up off the floor several inches. Control the movement as much as you can without popping up. Squeeze and hold for several seconds at the top of the movement, and return to the starting position. Do two sets of 20.

Absolutely Fabulous

Six-pack. Washboards. Abs of steel. We all know the buzzwords for describing that sexy, chiseled, fat free midsection. And even if you're lacking a bit of muscle in your shoulders and chest, incredible abs can transform even a sinewy upper body into an impressive, eye-catching package. Nothing wrong with grabbing a little attention, right? But here's the reality check: You don't get a six-pack without a lot of hard work, lots of sweat and diligence (and a disciplined diet, of course), so be prepared for the battle. But before we start, let's have a little anatomy lesson.

Most of us look at our stomachs as one muscle group. A large, ever-expanding muscle group, but a singular unit nonetheless. But in truth, your abs are actually made up of three separate muscle groups, all attached to each other. The midsection is made up of three distinct areas: the upper abdominals, located below the chest; the lower abdominals, which lie below the belly button; and the oblique muscles, located on the sides of the waist. So any ab routine should concentrate on working the different areas if it's to be truly effective.

The classic crunch (basically known as sit-ups) is certainly one of the most popular abdominal exercises, but it primarily works the upper abs. What you need is a workout that hits all three muscle groups so try mixing these variations in with your regular routine, or use all three together for a total abdominal experience your midsection wont' soon forget. And to help protect your lower back, be sure and use a mat when doing these exercises.

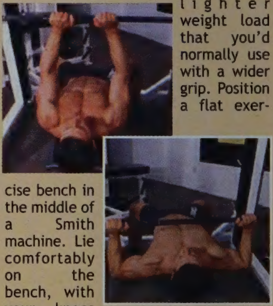
CHEST

Face it, men. Nothing grabs another man's attention better than a built, powerful chest—or, more formally, your pectoral muscles. Whether it's on the street, in a dance club or at the gym, the man with pecs of steel conveys a level of confidence, virility, success and sex appeal that's hard to ignore. Try to imagine pectorally-perfect men such as Jean-Claude van Damme, Evander Holyfield or Mark Wahlberg without their ripped, eye-catching pecs. Unquestionably, much of their appeal would be lost if you attached their heads to pigeon-chested torsos. In short, your chest is the visual focal point of your entire upper body. Better yet, strong, well-developed pecs also provide crucial support for building the rest of your upper body, especially your shoulders, arms and overall torso. Not to mention the obvious--that a buffed, cut chest will turn heads. So, focusing on this area makes sense even in terms of your overall fitness goals.

Whether you're just getting started or you've been working out for years, you'll want to stick to the basics on any body part—especially the chest. And if you want to build muscle (and we know you do), the key is to base your routine around free weights. Using a bar and dumbbell on several key exercises will be the focus here. We'll get started with two basic but very effective exercises: Incline Bench Press and Dumbbell Flys. If you apply the proper form and do these exercises twice a week, you'll be popping out of your shirt—in all the right ways—in no time.

Flat Bench Press

This exercise focuses on the inner part of the chest, and should be done with a lighter weight load that you'd normally use with a wider grip. Position a flat exercise bench in the middle of a Smith machine. Lie comfortably on the bench, with your knees bent and feet resting on the floor. Align the bench so the bar is resting directly



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over your upper chest, and position your hands 6 to 12 inches apart. As you prepare to lift, turn it to unlatch the hooks from the supports and then lower it to just above chest level. Push up, squeezing your chest throughout the movement. Return to starting position and repeat. Upon completion of the final rep, turn the make and make sure it's hooked to the support before releasing your grip. Do three sets of 12 reps.

Tip: For that extra pump, hold your final rep with your arms fully extended for ten seconds, squeezing your chest the entire time.

Cable Fly (outer and upper chest)
A cable machine offers myriad options for working your chest. You can do variations of this exercise seated, lying flat or standing up, depending on the areas of the chest you want to focus on.

For this exercise, lie on you back with the cables in a lowered position. Position the bench in the middle of the cable machine. Grab the handles with your palms facing upward. With your elbows slightly bent, squeeze from the chest muscles, bringing your hands together with palms facing each other. Release slowly and repeat.

TIP: Move the cables without throwing your upper body into the exercise to keep the focus entirely on the chest.

Incline Bench Press

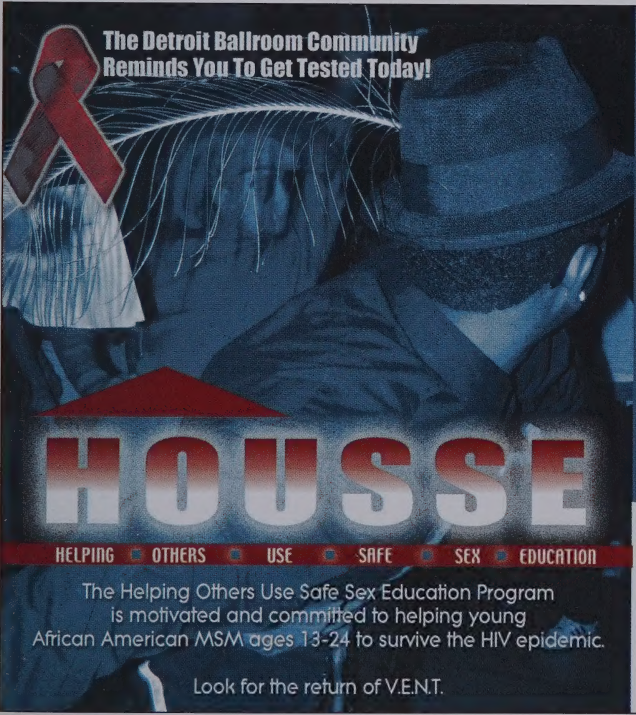
Incline Bench Press: This exercise should be done on a 45-degree incline bench.
Hold the bar with your hands approximately six inches wider than shoulder width on each side. Grasp the bar firmly and hold it above your head, with your arms extended. Lower the bar slowly to your collarbone, then return the weight until your arms are extended back to the starting position. Do three sets of 12 reps.

TIP: Keep each rep moving in a continuous flow—never stop at any point during a rep.

Dumbbell Flys

Dumbbell Fly (Enlarged)Dumbbell Flys: Lay on a flat bench with your feet planted firmly on the floor. Hold two equally weighted dumbbells above your chest (your palms should be facing each other). With your arms slightly arched, slowly lower the weights to each side of your body, keeping your chest muscles tight throughout the movement. Then squeeze the chest muscles as you push the weight back up to the starting position. Do three sets of 12 reps. TIP: Try not to grip the weights too tightly. This will put the emphasis on your forearms and not on your chest.

Reminder: When choosing how much weight to use, keep this in mind: You



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Nutrition

by Mitch Rustad

Nutrition Myths Uncovered

If you're looking to tone and tighten your body, you must do more than simply add reps to your routine at the gym. Weights, treadmills and crunches aside, the life or death of those love handles and flabby thighs ultimately comes down to what types of food you put into your mouth.

It's true that many of us know the basics of good nutrition. We do our best to stick to a low-fat, healthy diet. Yet despite the plethora of diet information available, many nutrition myths are alive and kicking. And they could be keeping you from reaching your fitness goals.

To dispel these myths, we caught up with Stephanie Gillis, M.A., a Los Angeles-based sports nutritionist, whose clients play for such teams as the Los Angeles Kings, New York Islanders, Colorado Avalanche and Indiana Pacers.

Myth: Less fat always means less fat.

Low-fat cupcakes are still cupcakes, and just because the fat grams are low doesn't mean its total calories -- the real barometer of fat -- are low, too, Gillis explains. "When it comes to losing weight, the bottom line is, and always will be, total calories," she says. "Low-fat and regular goodies usually have approximately the same calories, so there's no real benefit to choosing low-fat Twinkies over fully-fat Twinkies."

Myth: Skipping breakfast helps you lose weight.

How you break that overnight fast could hinder or help your fitness routine. If you're looking to lose weight, says Gillis, it's best to eat within two hours of waking. This will help replenish your glycogen and blood sugar levels.

To optimize your fat-burning, try a morning workout. "I advise clients to eat something easily digestible at least an hour before they workout," she says. "You want to have 200 to 300 calories that include protein, fat and carbohydrates." Yogurt with almonds, a fruit smoothie, a small bowl of cereal and half a banana, peanut butter on half a bagel -- all are quick, easy and healthy breakfast options.

Myth: Snacking is bad.

Want a truly fabulous secret to getting a lean, hard body? Snack between meals! Yes, giving up a few huge meals per day and eating up to six smaller meals instead (every three to four hours) is the best way to reduce your insulin levels, which may be linked to a reduction in body fat. The best snack? One that includes some fat, carbohydrates and protein.

Myth: Fat free desserts are healthy.

Oh, contraire! Most fat-free foods are loaded with sugar to make up for the lack of taste. Translation: they can have even more calories than their fatty counterparts. To keep your fitness routine on track, stick with smaller portions of the real thing, instead chowing down on a poor substitute.

Myth: All fats are bad.

Too many French fries, onion rings and cups of chocolate mousse, all of which are rich in saturated (bad) fat, are guaranteed to inflate that spare tire in no time. But not all fats are created equal. In fact, regular consumption of non-saturated (good) fats, found in avocados, almonds and cold water fish (like tuna and salmon), is essential to a healthy diet, says Gillis. "Your body needs the nutrients it gets from non-saturated fats," says Gillis. "That's why extreme low-fat diets are nutritional disasters. Everything from your brain to your skin's appearance suffers if your body isn't getting enough of the right type of fat."

Myth: High-protein, no carb diets are the best way to a lean, mean bod.

If there's one myth Gillis would like to put to rest once and for all, it's this one. "These diets were created for one reason -- to make the quacks who promote them rich," says Gillis. "High protein diets work for a short time because they are simply low-calorie diets in disguise." But it doesn't take before your body starts to crave the fuel it needs -- carbohydrates.

High-protein, no carb diets wreak havoc on the health of the poor souls who follow them, Gillis adds. "If you want to ruin your metabolism, clog your arteries and eventually gain back the weight you lost and more, then a high protein diet is for you," she says. If you'd rather avoid these health horrors, stick to a balanced diet of fats, carbs and protein. It's the best route to a beautiful -- and healthy -- body.

100 WAYS TO LIVE FOREVER CONTINUES ON PAGE 25

What You Eat Counts

What you eat -- not necessarily what you lift -- ultimately determines your level of fitness. That's right. Put the weights down for a second and read on. If you lift weights day and night -- yes -- you will notice a difference in your body, but the major changes only take place when you exercise and eat right. The majority of trainers out there will tell you that getting the body you want is 70 percent nutrition and only 30 percent exercise. To be sure, one of the biggest challenges we face in our quest for the body beautiful is wading through a flood of dietary information available today. New supplements surface almost daily. How are we expected to make the right nutritional choices? Ultimately, it's about what, when and how much you eat.

Think of the body as a human machine: the fuel you put into it determines how efficiently it will run. For all the body's systems to work in harmony, you need certain amounts of fats, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins and nutrients. If your diet is loaded with junk food and deficient in protein, you're not going to look or feel the way you want no matter how much you work out. Conversely, if you never lift a weight but eat a very healthy diet, your body will still function at a high level, and more than likely, look good as well. Remember, one way of eating won't work for everyone. Your body is unique, from your genetic makeup to your present state of health. Good nutrition is a way of life that will not only keep you alive and well, but will fuel you for true longevity. Ask your trainer or doctor to help you set up an eating plan that coincides with your fitness goals, and stick to it.

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BOOKSHELF

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse welcomes writer and activist Keith Boykin, who will read from his new book Beyond the Down Low: Sex, Lies, and Denial in Black America on Friday, Feb. 25, 2005, at 8:00 p.m. Outwrite is located at the corner of Tenth St. and Piedmont Ave. in Midtown Atlanta.

The "down low" - a term used to refer to closeted black men who have sex with men - became a national sensation in 2004 as articles appeared in such publications as The New York Times Magazine. The subject was also addressed on television programs such as Oprah. In this book Boykin, a former Clinton White House aide, syndicated columnist, and popular television personality, provides a behind-the-scenes look at the evolution of the "down low" from an "invisible life" to national headline news.

In *Beyond the Down Low* the author traces the troubled history of black sexuality in popular culture, examines how black masculinity and homophobia is defined through sports and hip-hop, and questions the black church's ambivalent relationship with sexuality. From the "sky-rocketing" HIV infection rates among African American women to the secret fraternity of black men accused of infecting their wives and girlfriends, Boykin takes to task the media's rush to judgment and the black community's "don't ask, don't tell" attitude toward sex and infidelity.

Breaking new ground by going beyond the media hype with an eye-opening look at the down low sensation, Boykin attempts to answer such questions as:

- Why are black men afraid to talk about their sexuality?
- Why are black women caught in the middle?
- How did the media get the story wrong?
- Why is everybody talking about the "down low"?

Keith Boykin, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, is one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality, and politics. Author of the 1997 study *One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America*, he has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA Today, among many other periodicals. More recently he was a featured contestant on Showtime's reality series American Candidate. He lives in New York City. For more information visit www.keithboykin.com.

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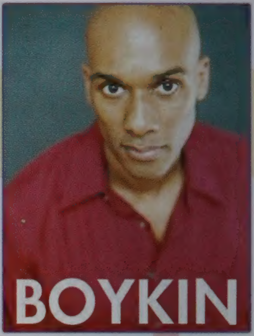

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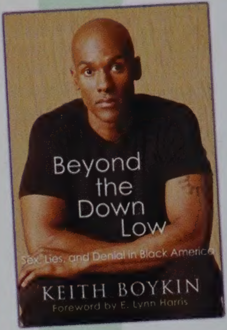

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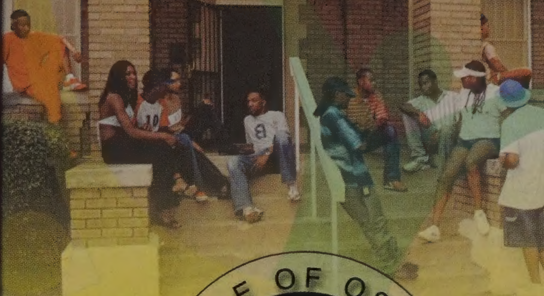

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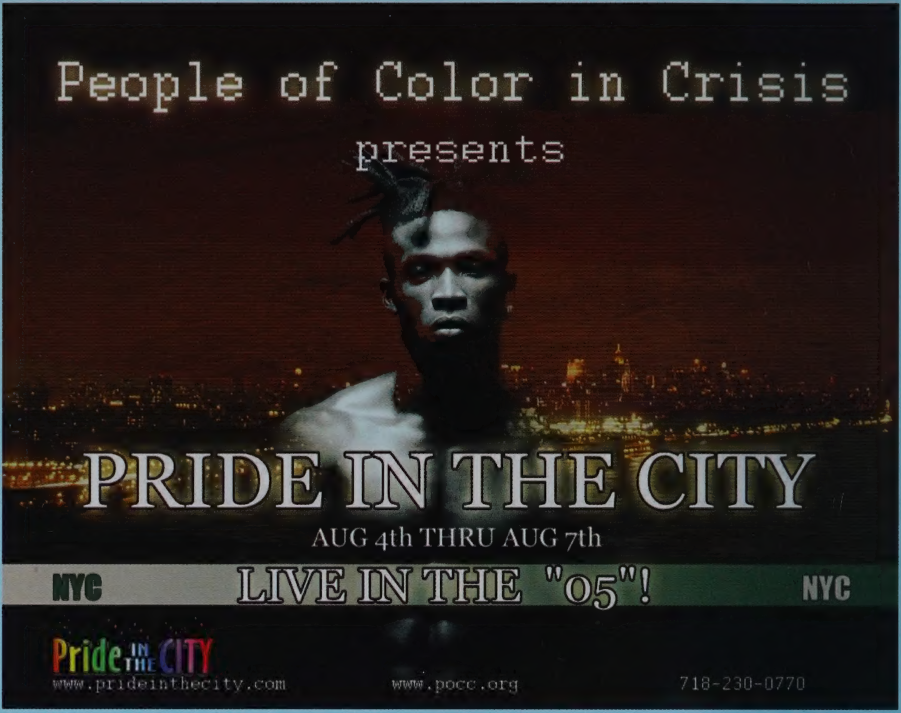
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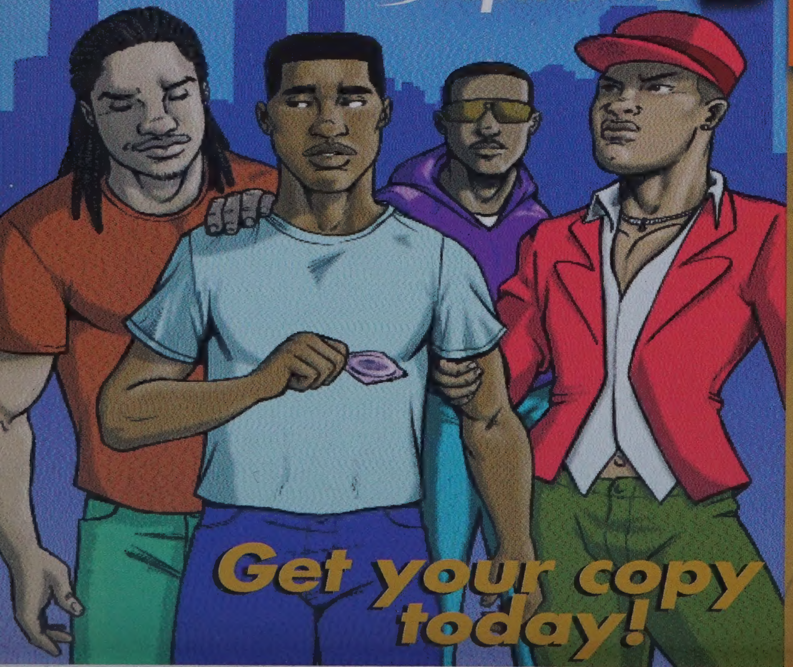
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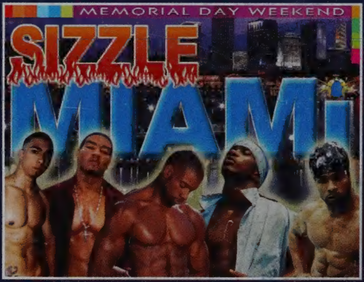

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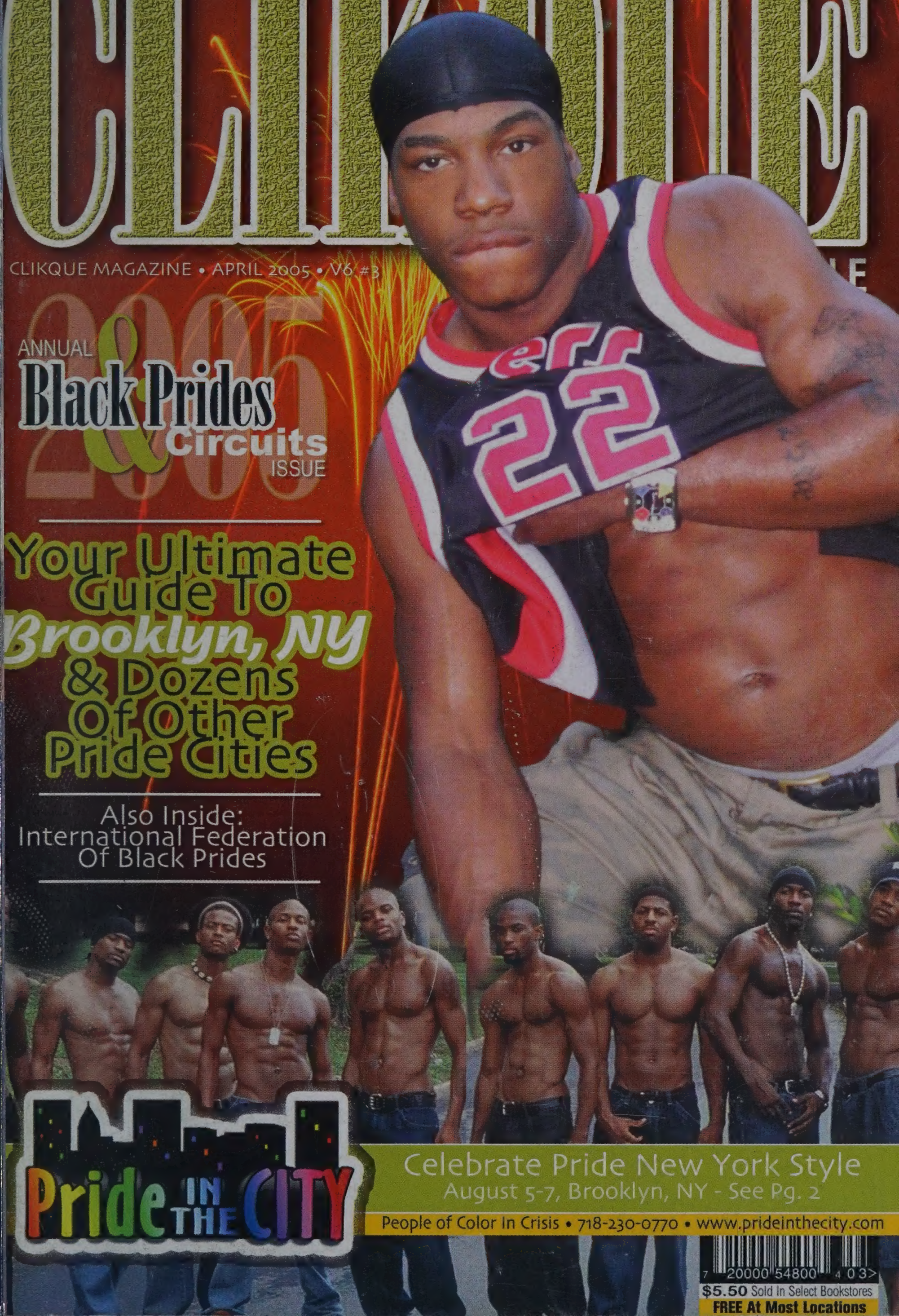

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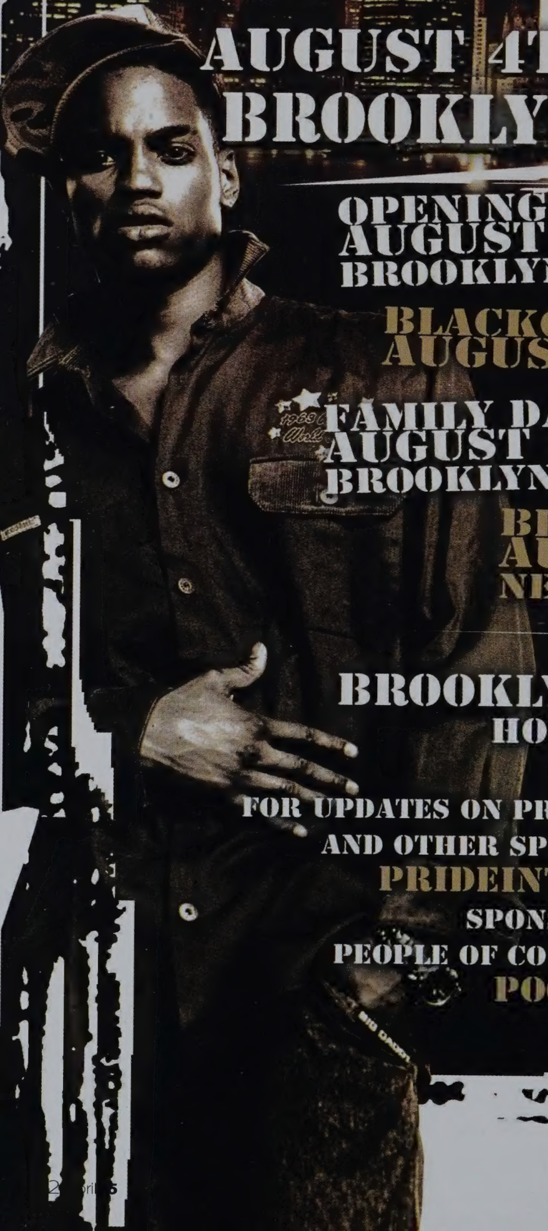

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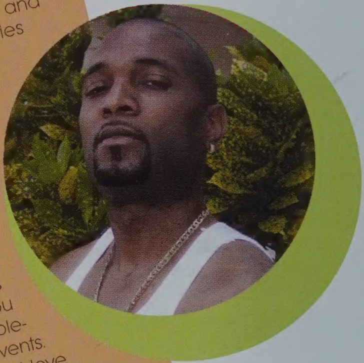
PRIDE

YEAR 2K5

We are really excited about this issue of Clikque and hope that you'll enjoy reading it as much as we did putting it all together for you. We do our best and try our hardest to keep you informed about the various events and activities across the nation. Being the only rag (Black Gay Magazine) left on the block, we consider this task a welcome responsibility.

In this issue, you'll be introduced to a national body, The International Federation Of Black Prides; an organization that we hope will make an impeccable difference in the enhancement of Black Gay Pride events nationwide. A unified organization working to enhance the lives and social consciousness of our communities could not have come at a better time.



Over the past few years, "pride" events around the nations are being drastically transformed into mega meeting grounds for parties and sex, with little to no focus on the educational, social, and political aspects of what prides were initially intended to represent. For those cities that recognized their events and gatherings as a pride event, I humbly stress that you go back to the days of old and implement all of the elements of pride events. There is nothing wrong with parties; I love a good party, however covering all bases makes your event well rounded. This in itself should appease all that wish to partake in the festivities.

I encourage you to support not only the major events in the larger cities, but also the smaller pride events right in your backyard. Pride organizers put a lot of energy and hard work into putting on successful events and your participation and support can go a long way in making the events bigger and better.

Enjoy the national pride and circuit events of 2005.

Dwight Powell

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Editor in Chief / Publisher	**Dwight Powell** dwight@clikque.com
HIV/AIDS Editor	**Don Sneed**
Sr. Staff Writer	**Craig Washington**
Sr. Staff Writer	**Scott Bogan**
Art Direction	**Dwight Powell**
Production	**Clikque Design**

CONTRIBUTORS
Ricc Rollins, Justin Hall, Keith Boykin
Earl Fowlkes, Handon Davis, Jon Garbo

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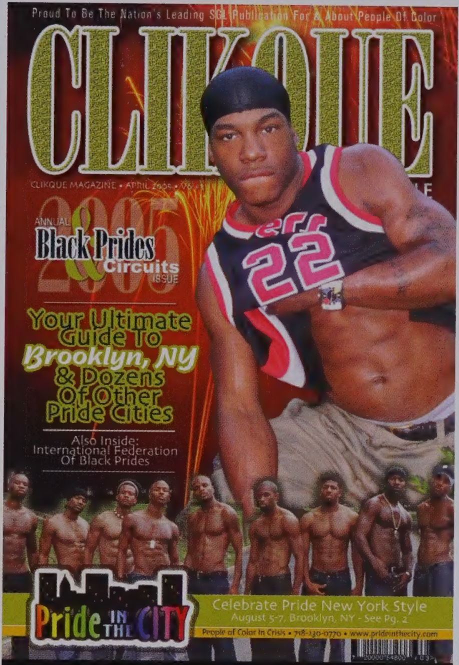
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Walter Wright

is having a one night stand

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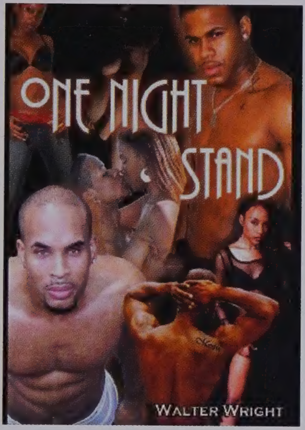
a review



In his addictive new book, Walter Wright, gives a feverent look into the African American gay community of Washington DC. The book takes place in one day, while exploring the lives of the different characters, who prepare to attend the party of the year!

The Who's Who of the African-American gay community will all be there, with one question on their minds: Who is going home with whom? While some will come to mend their broken hearts and some will come to get their groove back, all have one thing in common: A One Night Stand!

This book explores relationships with friends, lovers and siblings. **"One Night Stand"** is a definite page turner and a must read. While leaving you wanting more, Wright promises the next book will include the same characters you love and some new players.

About The Author

Walter Wright, a native of Lumberton, N.C., began writing to amuse the readers and educate people on the gay lifestyle. Already a cartoonist, Wright felt the need to tell a story with words, as an alternative to pictures.

Wright, a former D.C. resident, experienced the dual nature of the black gay community; kindness and friendliness reside on one side, while avarice and duplicity mire the other. Wright began to chronicle these experiences and produced **"One Night Stand"** The infusion of his creativity and wicked sense of humor gave birth to the books title. After all, the pleasured event of a **"One Night Stand"** is a parallel act for all readers.

"One Night Stand" is available at a Bookstore near you.

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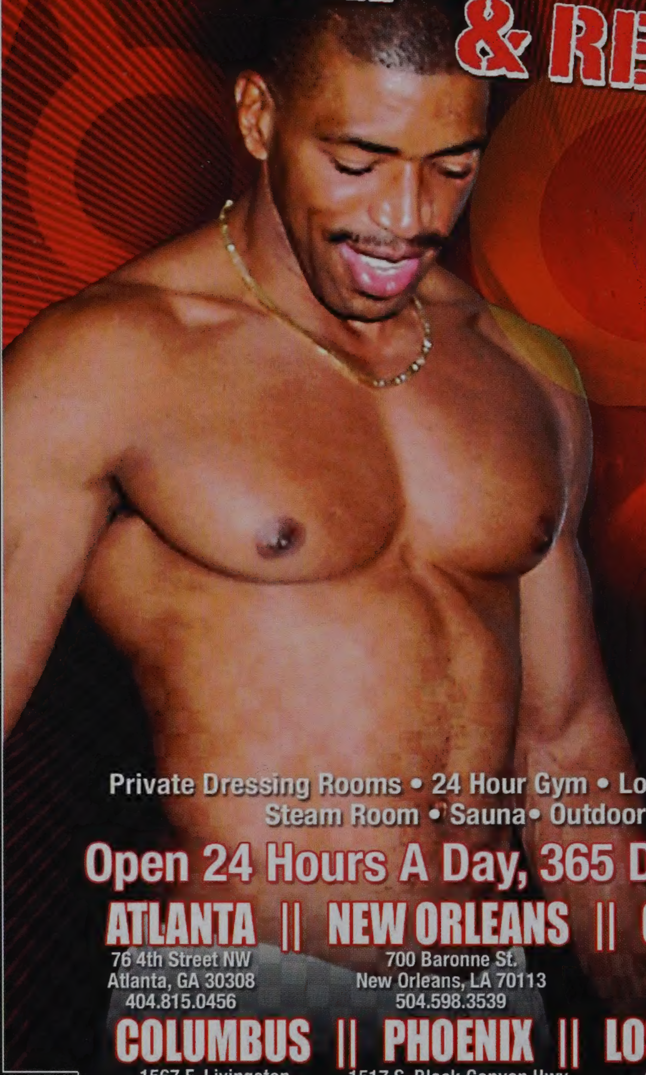

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10 Things *You Should Know* About the DL

by Keith Boykin

It's coming again. Get ready for a new round of news stories about the down low. It started last year with a wave of media hype and sensationalism designed to scare black women about men on the DL. But now it's important to separate fact from fiction in this delicate conversation.

Almost everything we've been told about the down low in recent years is wrong. That's why I've put together a quick list of ten things everyone should know about the down low.

1. The down low is just a black version of "the closet."

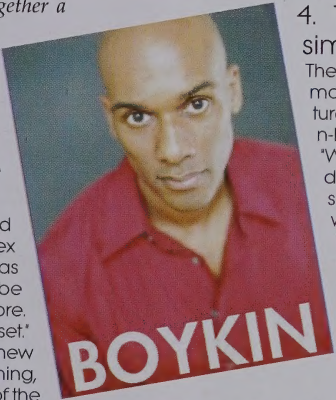
The down low is popularly used to refer to men who have sex with men but do not identify as gay or homosexual. Maybe you've heard that concept before. Long ago, we called it "the closet." The term "down low" is just a new way of describing a very old thing, but it's the hot new buzz word of the moment.

2. The down low is not new.

The phrase itself may be new, but the practice is as old as history. Men have been secretly sleeping with men since the beginning of time. And married men have been doing the same thing. The only thing new is what we call it.

3. The down low is not just a black thing.

When Jim McGreevey, the governor of New Jersey, announced last year that he had cheated on his wife with another man, no one bothered to make the obvious point -- Governor McGreevey had been on the down low. When white men do it, we call it what it is and move on. When black men do the same thing, we want to pathologize it. Therein lies a double standard.



4. The down low is not simply a gay thing.

The term "down low" entered the mainstream of black popular culture in the early 1990s. In 1993, Salt-n-Pepa recorded a song called "Whatta Man" that mentioned the down low. In 1994, TLC recorded a song called "Creep" about a woman on the down low. In 1995, Brian McKnight recorded his song, "On the Down Low," about a woman named Maxine on the DL. Then in 1996 and 1998, R. Kelly recorded not one, but two songs about the down low.

We laughed about it when it was a heterosexual thing, but suddenly we became alarmed when we "discovered" that gay and bisexual men were on the down low too. There's another double standard. In reality, the down low is simply about cheating, whether heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.

5. The down low is not the cause of the black AIDS epidemic.

In 2003 (the last year in which we have full CDC data available) there were more than 7,000 black female AIDS cases reported in the United States. Out of that number, only 118 reported "sex with a bisexual male" as the method of exposure. That's just 1.6 percent of all black female AIDS cases. Believe it or not, there are other ways to get infected besides having sex with a man on the down low. Many women are also becoming infected through injection

BOYKIN CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

What's "The T"?

ARCA

The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta Conducts Study of Tenofovir with Focus on HIV Negative African-American Men Who Have Sex with Men.

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) is conducting a clinical drug trial called "The T" to test the safety of administering tenofovir to men ages 18 to 60 in the Atlanta area. One hundred African-American, HIV negative, men who have sex with men will participate in the study and will be followed for two years. One hundred men from the larger community also will be recruited. Tenofovir is an approved medicine for people living with HIV/AIDS.

There is a real need for participants in HIV/AIDS clinical research to reflect the demographics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the Atlanta area, this means that African-Americans must participate to be sure that tenofovir is as safe in African Americans as it is for others. Often African-Americans are under-represented in clinical trials and therefore less is known about how medications specifically affect Blacks. This is the reason ARCA is committed to enroll half of the Atlanta participants from the African-American communities.

ARCA and the San Francisco Department of Public Health are the only research sites in the U. S. for this study. Each site will enroll 200 men. With an effective vaccine years at least a decade away, there is evidence and hope that tenofovir, which is used to treat HIV, may play an important role in reducing HIV infection worldwide.

This study will help answer questions regarding the behavioral and medical safety of tenofovir's use. We will reinforce proven prevention strategies and will work to safeguard the well being of all study participants. Extensive counseling will be provided at each visit to assist the participants in reducing HIV risk behaviors. Free testing for HIV will be provided to all study participants at any time throughout their participation in the study.

Since 1989, ARCA has participated in studies resulting in the licensing of 21 of the 24 drugs currently approved for the treatment of HIV.

Contact: Lynwood Miller, RN, Duncan E. Teague
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AND IN LOVING MEMORY
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BOYKIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

drug use, sex with an injection drug user, and sex with a heterosexual (not down low) man.

Focusing on the down low misleads women to think that the down low is a health threat instead of HIV. That's a serious mistake. A man on the down low who is HIV negative cannot pass the virus to you, but a straight man who is not on the down low could easily give you HIV if he is infected with the virus. The down low does not cause AIDS. HIV causes AIDS.

6. The down low discussion is a distraction from the real issues.

All the time we've spent sensationalizing the down low in the past few years is time we could have spent talking about solutions to the AIDS epidemic in our communities.

On an individual level, we need to encourage men and women to exercise personal responsibility. On an institutional level, we need to mobilize our churches, fraternities, sororities and civic organizations so they can provide reliable safe sex information, HIV testing, and nonjudgmental counseling. And on a public policy level, we need to talk about free testing facilities, needle exchange programs, condoms in prison, targeted AIDS prevention funding, resources for low-income people living with AIDS, and safe sex education in public schools. That's the dialogue we should be having.

7. There are no "signs" to tell if a man is on the down low.

There are going to be a lot of people out there trying to tell you how to find out if your man is on the DL. Don't waste your time. The whole point of the down low is that these are people who do not want to be detected. The moment you come up with a "guidebook" to give you some warning signs is the moment when men on the down low will devise new strategies to elude you.

8. Becoming a "down low detective" is not the answer.

Log onto various Internet web sites about the down low, and you'll find lots of information about how to spy on your partner. Sure, you could hire a private investigator to follow him around when he goes to work, but what does that say about your relationship? If you do suspect something is fishy, you may be in for a shocking surprise. Your man may be cheating on you -- with another woman!

A better solution is to confront the homophobia in our community that contributes to the down low. If we want to stop the down low, then we need to create a climate where men (and women) don't feel the need to be on the down low in the first place. Then we won't have as many men who feel forced into fake relationships to keep the parents, friends and nosey neighbors out of their lives.

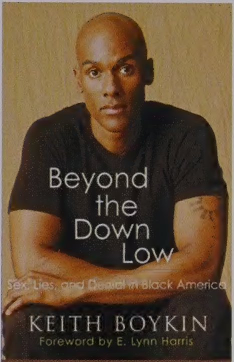
9. Demonizing men on the down low will not make them straight.

One popular response to the down low is to demonize all down low men as villains. That may make us feel a little better for a moment, but it won't change the reality of who they are. In fact, demonizing men on the down low is more likely to push these men further into denial about their sexuality. People often ask, "Why don't these men simply come out and say they're gay?" That's a good question, but as long as we keep demonizing homosexuality, don't expect any mass confessions to happen anytime soon.

10. Stereotyping women as victims will not keep them safe.

Much of the discussion about the down low recently has portrayed women as "victims" of black men. Framing the issue this way disempowers women from the ability to protect themselves, reinforces negative stereotypes about black men and encourages an unhealthy battle of the sexes in the black community.

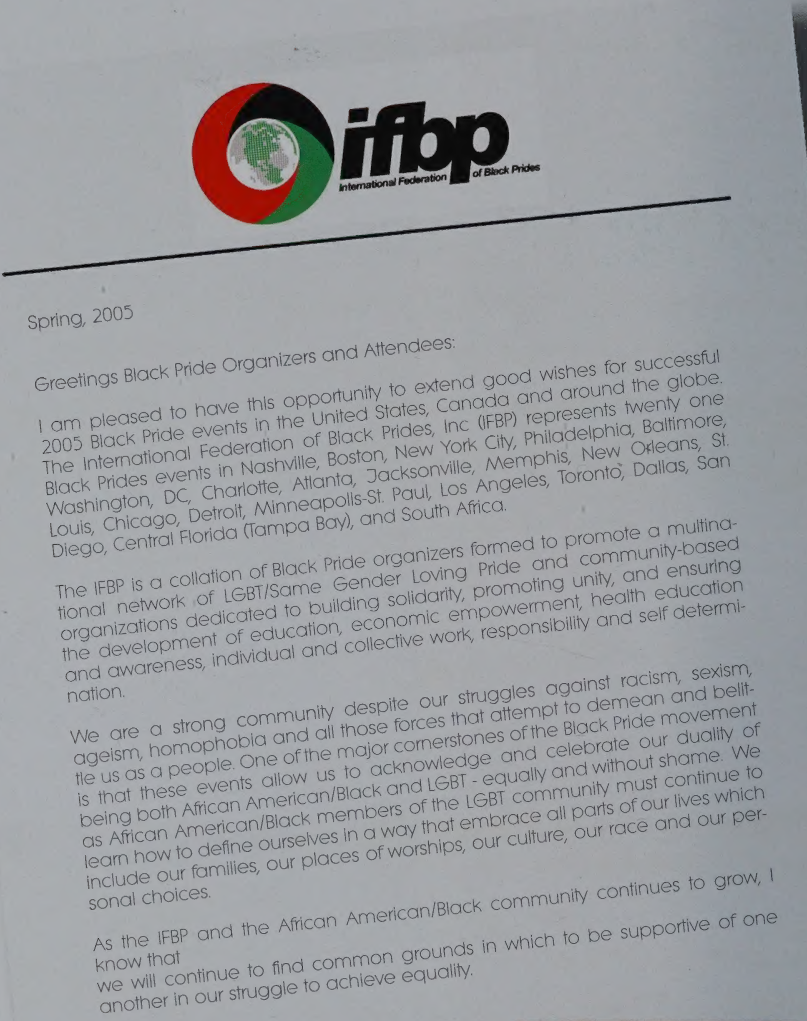
The media machine behind the down low business (and it is a business) has tried to exploit women's fears about the DL in order to make a quick buck. But fear is not the answer. Education is. Knowledge is power, and all women and men need to know the truth.


Beyond the Down Low
Sex, Lies, and Denial in Black America
KEITH BOYKIN
Foreword by E. Lynn Harris

Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times bestselling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.

Keith appeared on the Showtime television series American Candidate and is a frequent presence in the media. He has appeared on VH1, BET, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and numerous other television and radio programs. He has been featured on the cover of several publications including A&U, Out and The Advocate, and he was selected as one of Out Magazine's 100 most intriguing people of 2004. He has also been featured or quoted in articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today and JET magazine.

A popular lecturer, Keith has traveled to 16 countries and 48 of the 50 United States. His new book, Beyond the Down Low, was released in February 2005 and immediately shot to the New York Times bestsellers list. Currently, he writes daily commentary on his website, keithboykin.com, which averages more than 70,000 hits per day, making it the leading website of its kind. Keith was born in St. Louis, Missouri and lives in New York City.



ifbp
International Federation of Black Prides

Spring, 2005

Greetings Black Pride Organizers and Attendees:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend good wishes for successful 2005 Black Pride events in the United States, Canada and around the globe. The International Federation of Black Prides, Inc (IFBP) represents twenty one Black Prides events in Nashville, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Charlotte, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, Toronto, Dallas, San Diego, Central Florida (Tampa Bay), and South Africa.

The IFBP is a collation of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, health education and awareness, individual and collective work, responsibility and self determination.

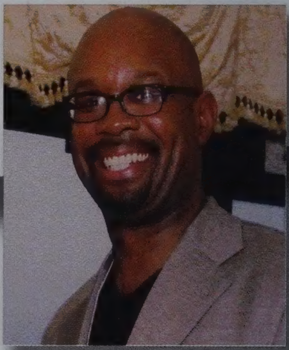
We are a strong community despite our struggles against racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia and all those forces that attempt to demean and belittle us as a people. One of the major cornerstones of the Black Pride movement is that these events allow us to acknowledge and celebrate our duality of being both African American/Black and LGBT - equally and without shame. We as African American/Black members of the LGBT community must continue to learn how to define ourselves in a way that embrace all parts of our lives which include our families, our places of worships, our culture, our race and our personal choices.

As the IFBP and the African American/Black community continues to grow, I know that
we will continue to find common grounds in which to be supportive of one another in our struggle to achieve equality.

Peace,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,
President & CEO



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Pride In The City, Brooklyn NY

MISSION

The IFBP is a coalition of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, health and wellness, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, and individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination.

HISTORY

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Washington, DC. in 1999. The coalition saw a need to organize the twenty plus Black Prides in the United States and abroad for the purpose of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

In November 2000, the original seven cities, in addition to Los Angeles and Jacksonville, formalized IFBP, adopted bylaws, and elected officers. In April 2001, IFBP extended invitations to the remaining Black Prides and prepared for the first annual IFBP Meeting under the new bylaws. As a result of the meeting, the organization produced the 2001 Black Prides in the United States listing, the first official brochure listing of its kind.

In January 2004, IFBP successfully conducted the Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance Conference (SPTA) for members and prospective members. Representatives of eighteen Black Pride cities attended the conference in order to obtain information on improving Pride events. A series of workshops were conducted, topics including event planning, vending package development, sponsorship, media relationships, working with promoters, and other issues centered on producing a successful Black Pride event. In addition, IFBP assisted conference attendees with writing bylaws, completing IRS 501 (c) (3) applications, setting up fiscal systems, and developing Pride organizations. In January 2005, IFBP conducted yet another successful SPTA Conference in Atlanta, GA, one of its purposes to unveil the official IFBP website.

The IFBP adopted a number of organizational changes at our January 2005 meeting. The most important are that the current and only president, Earl Fowlkes will become the President and CEO of the IFBP and will no longer be on the Board of Directors. All four regional vice presidents: East region - Dorena Kearney-Philadelphia Black Gay Pride; Midwest region - Johnny Jenkins - Detroit Hotter Than July; South region - Gervon James - Jacksonville Black Pride; and West region - Wendell Carmichael - LA At The Beach will become staff and a new board will be constituted during the annual meeting in Washington, DC during the 2005 Memorial Day weekend. The 2006 IFBP Annual Meeting will be in Memphis, TN during the MLKJr. weekend.

2005 Goals for the IFBP

- Have website up and running within the next 90 days
- Implement IFBP 2005 agenda
- Obtain office space in Washington, DC (HQ)
- Publish a national IFBP Guide
- Restructure organization- separate staff and board responsibilities
- Develop stronger regional networks that will foster a stronger mentor program
- Obtain grants & foundation support to develop stronger Black Pride infrastructure
- Develop stronger communications between IFBP and members
- Continue to partner with other LGBT and non LGBT national organizations (e.g., NAACP, NBJC, HRC, etc.)
- Develop dialogue with African American/Black organizations
- More skills building opportunities
- Continue to work with community folks interested in starting Black Prides in Columbus, Austin, Louisville, Savannah & other cities
- Develop African American/Black Archive Project

2005 Officers

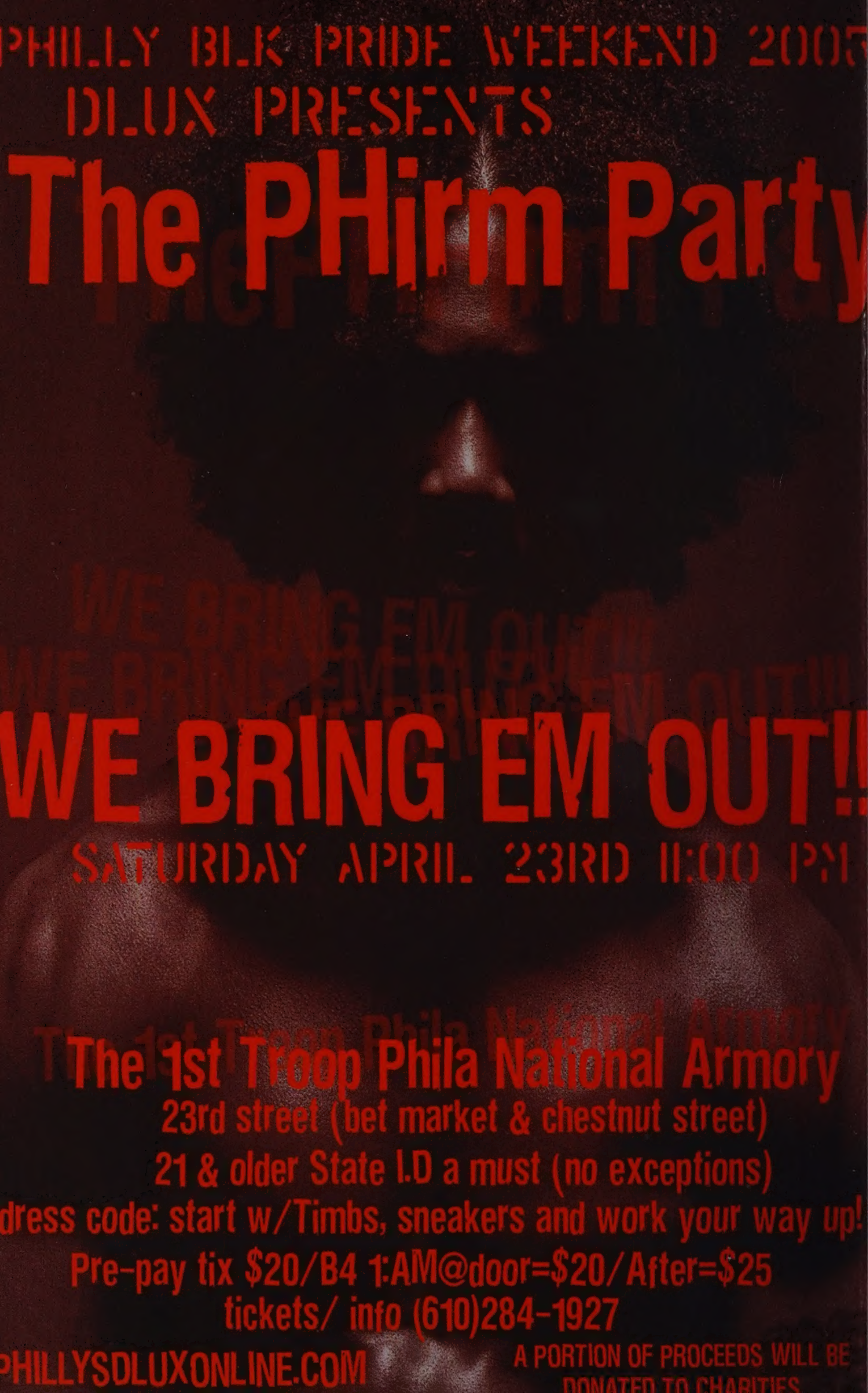
President, **Earl Fowlkes** - Washington DC
East Regional Vice President, **Dorena Kearney** - Philadelphia
Midwest Region Vice President, **Johnny Jenkins** - Detroit
South Region Vice President, **Gervon James** - Jacksonville
West Region Vice President, **Wendell Carmichael** - Los Angeles
Treasurer, **James Saunders** - New York
Secretary, **Anthony Hardaway** - Memphis

Windy City Black Pride, Chicago, IL

International Federation Of Black Prides

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

- An increased number of Black Prides committees involved in local community issues (e.g., ban on gay marriage amendments, etc.)
- Successful Get Out the Vote Campaign
- Increased cross promotion among IFBP membership
- Continued representation on the National African American Tobacco Education Network
- Held 7th Annual meeting in Washington, DC
- Regional Vice Presidents taking a more active role in mentoring new prides and guiding potential member through the process
- More discussion with national organizations (e.g. HRC, NGLTF)
- Developing Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual
- Developing Personnel Policies and Procedures manual
- New logo
- Obtain 501 (c)(3) non profit status
- Members of the Executive Comm. attended 12 member Black Prides
- Produced our 5th Annual Black Pride calendar
- The majority of the IFBP members listed themselves as "Pride members of the IFBP"
- Conducted focus groups on the smoking habits of Black LGBT in five BP cities.
- Developed a comprehensive membership criteria and formal membership process
- Received funding for website
- Had successful regional meetings in Baltimore and Atlanta



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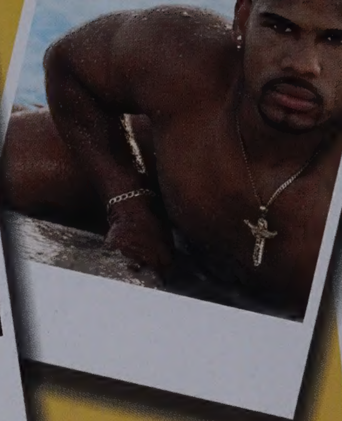

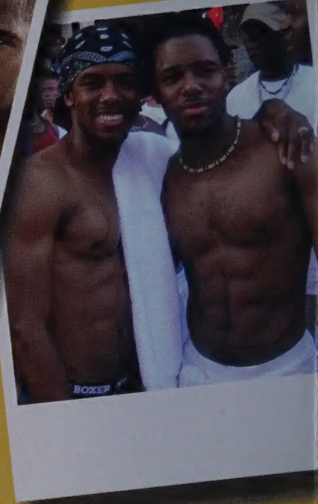

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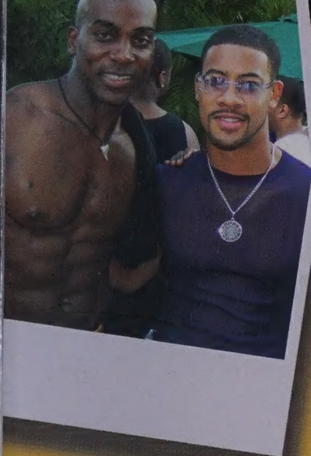

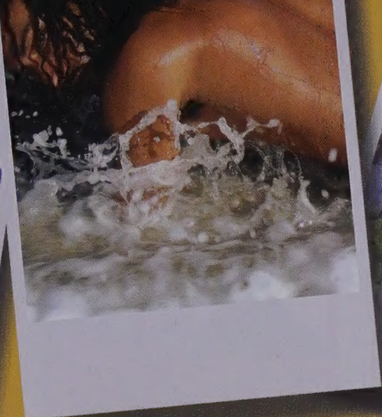

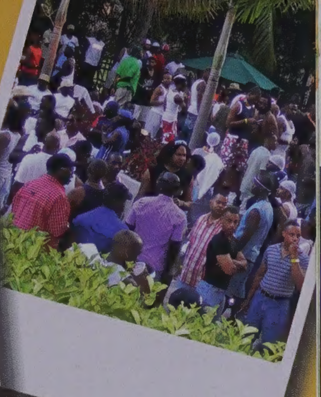

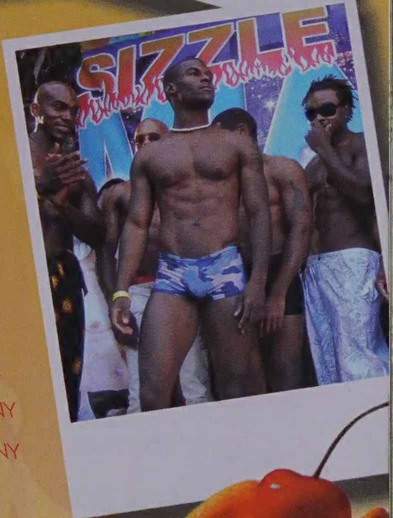

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class of 2005 - national pride leaders

Clikque Magazine would like to salute all of the officers, leaders, and board members of pride events all over the country. These individuals give all of themselves receiving little and in most instances no reward. They do it for the pure love and desire to uplift, enhance and positively showcase our black gay communities

Thanks to all of you for you efforts over the years and best wishes to you for a successful 2005.

DWAYNE JENKINS

Organization
Nashville Black Pride

Position
Founder / President

The Nashville Black Pride Planning Team that assembled all felt that it was time to celebrate the life & culture of African American SGL in our city. 8 years with Brothers United Network, Inc, and 3 years with the Nashville charter of the International Federation of Black Prides Organization.

LORENZO ROBINSON

RICC ROLLINS

Organization
Central Florida Black Pride

Position
Co-Founder / President

Location
Tampa, Florida

The prides of years prior to 2000 we covertly inclusive and never made issue with the fact that there was no real outreach to the SGL community of color. It was at that pride (2000) that the only six African-American attendees said, enough is enough- and the rest is history.

TONEY MORSE

Organization
Philly Dlux / Philadelphia Black Pride

Position
Founder

Location
Philadelphia, PA

Philly Dlux Investment club is a Philadelphia based organization established May 30, 2000. This association is comprised of African American Gay Men seeking to develop economic tools of empowerment. Our mission is to create financial security and wealth through strategically investing while forming a society of brotherhood

We aim to produce members who understand the importance of brotherhood and financial stability. DLUX is a social network of progressive, supportive and creative individuals. Our vision is to positively affect the social and economic development of our members while providing nurturing mentorship's for Gay youth of African descent

Philly's DLUX investment club and the members thereof are dedicated to acquiring collective wealth, serving as philanthropists, sponsoring various projects and dedicating time to charitable causes.

class of 2005 - national pride leaders

JERMAIN LEE

DAMON BLACKMAN

Organization
North Carolina Black Gay Pride

Position
Co-Founders

Location
Tampa, Florida

Charlotte NC is the heart of the oppressive "Bible Belt" and is still an epicenter of racism, classism, intolerance and homophobia. Therefore, this historic Pride Celebration has many layers. It is about more than just entertainment. We are paving the way for further equality and visibility of same gender loving people of color in the southeast. Has our 2005 theme proclaims, "It's A New Day."

GARFIELD LEE

Organization
Dallas Black Gay Pride

Position
President

I strive to make Dallas Black Pride the Neuclus for all Groups, Clubs, organizations of color in the GLBT community.

GARY ENGLISH

Organization
POCC Pride In The City

Position
Executive Director

I chose to be involved in a Black gay HIV prevention agency because I saw the need to make sure that Black gay men in NY and in the country are aware of their HIV status and that they have medical care and services. I feel it's imperative that the Black LGBT community's rights are intact so that we can have a mechanism for fighting racism, homophobia and sexism in the greater community. Being the Executive Director of POCC, I will make sure that the Black LGBT community's voices will be heard. We're not invisible. We want to be recognized.

Washington DC Black Pride
ERIC RICHARDSON / President

Boston Unity Pride
LEE JAMES / President

Memphis TN Black Pride
ANTHONY HARDAWAY / President

Black Pride NYC
JAMES SAUNDERS / Founder

At The Beach LA
WENDELL CARMICHAEL / President

Windy City Black Pride
JOHN ROACH / Officer

Detroit Hotter Than July
HANK MILLBOURNE / President

Pittsburgh Unity Black Pride
DERYCK TINES / President

Jacksonville Florida Black Pride
CHRISTOPHER FOREMAN / President

Indiana Black Pride
ROBERT FERGUSON / President

Minnesota GLBT Soul Essence
JOSEPH WARD / President

Cleveland Black Gay & Proud Celebration
JON EVERETT / President

St. Louis Black Pride
ANTHONY GALLOWAY / President

Bay Area Black In The Life Celebration
JOE HAWKINS / President

Ebony Pride San Diego
KEN RILEY / Co-Chair

In The Life Atlanta
MICHAEL SLAUGHTER / President

Baltimore Black Gay Pride
CARTON SMITH / President

Baltimore Pride

JUNE 17th-19th, 2005

1st PRIDE

LOCATION:

CLUB BUNNS

606/608 W.LEXINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
410-234-BUNN

CONTACT PERSON: MR. DANA OWENS

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MUSIC 6pm-10
DJ THOMMY DAVIS
PRIDE CASH BALL/FATHER TONY REVLON

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

SEXY LADIES PRIDE PARTY
PRESENTED BY YAYA AND S.O.F.T. INC
10pm-2am

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

THE OFFICIAL BLACK TOGETHER IN
PRIDE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY 6pm-MID

2nd PRIDE

OCT. 7th-11th 2005

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CONTACT CARLTON SMITH @ 443.691.9669/bmoreblackpride@aol.com

www.bmoreblackpride.org

how do we make our BLACK GAY PRIDES more than super sexed-up parties?

By Ricc Rollins, Tampa FL

Coming from what some might think of as the "faux South," the concept of Black Pride was totally foreign until we published our first book, Like Breathing and was told that you have to promote it at "Pride." My exposure to Pride at that point had been limited to the Eurocentric versions that I attended in the early 80's. Needless to say I was amazed at what I would soon discover.

Following the sage advise of my advisors, my business (and then life partner) sojourned to DC for Black Pride. The city bustled with beautiful brothers in every hue and height, I was amazed, to be honest, overwhelmed was more like it and we hadn't even got to the actual Pride event yet. That Saturday, we were invited to Lambda Rising for a signing. I ran into people that I knew from college and others that I had met on other legs of my tour and people from Tampa of all places. I was amazed to see people from Tampa because no one had ever told me about "PRIDE" - they would just mention Memorial Day or DC but never explained why they made this traditional trek every year. It wasn't until later that I would realize why.

Never had I been so proud as I was that Saturday to see brothers- my brothers, come to an event and pack out a place. Again, I was overwhelmed. Remember, I was from Tampa and had never witnessed anything like this. Our "pride" events rarely had Afrocentric attendance except for the few people who I knew from the club- which is where I saw black people that I never seemed to see anywhere else. That always amazed me- still does to this day.

I digress, the signing went well and we sold everything that we had with us and previewed the two books that would debut at Pride the next day. To this day we remain grateful for what happened in that bookstore that day. It was amazing to us, brothers everywhere excited about books and showing such support. I remember remarking to Lorenzo (Robertson) that if that I felt like I had died and gone to heaven and that this would never happen in Tampa- or so I thought.

The next morning we made our way to Howard University's Banneker Field and if I thought that Saturday was eye opening that Sunday would prove to be the "ah-ha" moment that put it all in to perspective. We arrived at the author's tent where we had assembled SGL authors from around the country for what we thought would be a huge success. Keith Boykin, Sharon Bridgforth, Michael Christopher, Dwayne Carter, G, Winton James, Lorenzo Robertson and myself prepared for what we thought would be a historical and yes, profitable day. It was historical to us anyway; for us it resembled what the Harlem Renaissance must have been like and having later watching Brother to Brother it was in many ways. People would come and chat and some would buy but most came to ogle at the buffed body of one of the authors; a hint that this mindset of the day

GOT PRIDE CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

GOT PRIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

wasn't empowerment. Please know that I ain't hatin', that author sold a third of what was purchased that day. Between the seven of us only one hundred books were sold. To this day I am saddened by that. I guess as an author, I could say that was the foreshadowing of what was to come or as my grandmother would say, "it was the handwrittin' on the wall."

I think Ray Charles could have seen what would later become so clear to me once I rebounded from my disappointment of the day gain new perspective. Upon reflecting on the day, I noticed buffed body after buffed body and while it made for great eye candy and a testament to physical health, there was a tension in the air that went beyond the surface. It was a sexual tension as the brothers scoped each other out giving each other the eye as they nonchalantly made their way around the venue.

Later that evening over dinner I over heard some of the same brothas I had seen at Banneker quizzing locals about the "Blatino Party." Again, my naiveté took over and I thought that this an organization for black and Latin brothas. I would later learn that it was a sex party. That whole concept intrigued and saddened me at the same time. Make no mistake, I'm no prude and believe that if you're an adult, do what makes you happy as long as it's not harming you and you can live with you.

As time progressed I notice that what I had witnessed in my maiden voyage to DC became more the norm that the exception regardless of the efforts by Pride organizations all over the country. The empowerment workshops, the literary cafes, interfaith services or other non-party events never garner the crowd or attendance that the "parties" do.

Our contact information is published on numerous websites and publications because of our Pride involvement and without fail, people coming to the city will call and ask "where are the clubs, the bathhouses, the bookstores..." but never call and ask for the all-affirming church, the coffeehouse, the men's organization or a good restaurant.

We have been so conditioned to think that the "sexual" in homosexual defines who we are that we forget that it goes far beyond "sexual preference" and really is about "sexual Orientation." We've bought into the stereotypes of media and forgotten who we really are. It's all about the "sex" and the "boyz."

As a pride organizer it's very frustrating to plan events that will empower a generation both seasoned and neophyte and have it poorly attended or not attended at all. Prides around the country are faced with the dilemma when planning. While it's our intent to have a well-rounded event with empowerment and entertainment, it's a struggle to not succumb to the mindset "just plan the parties and forget the rest because ain't nobody coming to the workshops!"

Pride must be true to it's name and be a catalyst for the enriching of lives , the enlightening of minds and the uplifting of souls. If one person is touched or a life is enlightened because he see other strong, stable men walking his same path but making more empowering decisions and doing well as a result- the trail is then blazed.

Don't get me wrong, there's absolutely nothing wrong with having fun, but what is there to be proud of when all that is on your mind is the sex. The celebration of who you are and whose you are is diminished by who had you and who had who. Again, not trying to be a prude here, or come across as the moral anything. But I hear the voices of Bayard, Baldwin, Lorde and Ellis asking themselves "how did it come to this? Is this what we fought so hard for?"

What have we done with their legacy? Are we so caught up in moment that we're willing to toss away a life time?

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JULY 4TH WEEKEND

JUNE 30TH-JULY 4TH

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Telephone:312-986-0661

Design by LMSDesign

top twenty TOP 20

THINGS NOT TO DO AT PRIDE THIS YEAR

20— Don't have more than four people sharing one hotel room

19— Don't forget to tip the bartenders and strippers even if they're visually challenging

18— Don't come to the club if your not looking to have a good time

17— Don't forget to bathe and use deodorant before leaving to go to the club

16— Don't take up all the space on the dance floor

15— Don't expect a guy to buy you a drink just because you're cute

14— Don't bother the DJ with request

13— Don't expect to be on the guest list

12— Don't fight in the club

11— Don't use other people's credit cards

10— Don't give it up on the first night of a 3 day weekend, he'll wait "if" you're worth it

9— Don't expect to find a new boyfriend

8— Don't wear make up or contacts cause he may not recognized you in the morning

7— Don't wear last year's pride fashions

6— Don't tell people your a true top if you're not

5— Don't bring your old or current boyfriend

4— Don't bring six months amount of clothes for a three day weekend

3— Don't wear clothes 2 times smaller than your actual size

2— Don't bring an over night bag to the club

1— Don't get upset when you realize that you're not the only cute person at pride

Your Destiny Awaits...

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Tampa, Florida

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10:30PM-4AM

SATURDAY JULY 2ND

LOFTWERKS PRESENTS: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
HIP HOP & HOUSE PARTY
@ CLUB REUNION 811 W. LAKE ST.
9:30PM-3AM

SUNDAY JULY 3RD

OTDL PRESENTS: FREEDOM
HIP HOP & HOUSE PARTY
@ ZENTRA 923 W. WEED ST.
(1 BLOCK S. OF NORTH AVE @ SHEFFIELD)
(773)215-OTDL OTDL CHICAGO @AOL.COM
11PM-4AM

MONDAY JULY 4TH

TUT & CLUBHOUSE PRESENT: PRIDE 2005
SHOW & DANCE PARTY
HOST: OTIS MACK & Mz. RUFF N STUFF
@ CIRCUS 901 W. WEED ST.
(1 BLOCK S. OF NORTH AVE @ FREMONT)
(312)398-8960
10:00PM-4AM

CELEBRATE PRIDE

CHICAGO
www.thewindycitypride.org
CAGO PRIDE 2005
the windy city pride
WCP 2005

JUNE 30TH - JULY 4TH

JULY 4TH WEEKEND

Design by LMSDesign

2005 Black Prides & National Circuits Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

ifbp International Federation of Black Prides

At The Beach In LA

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, De of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

APRIL

PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE
APRIL 21-24, 2005
www.phillyblackpride.org
610-284-1927
SEE PAGE 15 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

MAY

HOUSTON SPLASH*
MAY 4TH-9TH, 2005
www.houstonsplash.com

SIZZLE MIAMI*
MAY 26TH-30TH, 2005
www.sizzle2005.com
305-528-7495
SEE PAGE 18 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE
MAY 27 - 30, 2005

JUNE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
JUNE 8 - 12, 2005

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 17 - 19, 2005

BLACK PRIDE NYC
JUNE 21-26, 2005

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 1 - JULY 4, 2005
773-562-6039
www.windycitypride.org
SEE PAGE 25 & 28 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

AT THE BEACH LOS ANGELES
JULY 1 -4, 2005

TAMPA, FL
CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE
July 14-17, 2005
(813) 873-1888
Riccrollins@aol.com
lorenz762@aol.com
www.floridablackpride.net
SEE PAGE 27 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE
JULY 15 - 17, 2005
charlottencblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 27 -July 31, 2005
WEB: www.hotterthanjuly.com

PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 29 - 31, 2005

AUGUST

CLEVELAND, OH
BLACK, GAY & PROUD
CELEBRATION
AUGUST 1-7, 2005
BlackOut Unlimited
(216) 937-2268
.blackoutunlimited.org

BROOKLYN NY*
PRIDE IN THE CITY
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005
78-230-0770
www.pocc.org
SEE PAGE 2 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

2005 Black Pride & National Circuit Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

AUGUST cont.

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 11 - 14, 2005

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 18-21, 2005

BAY AREA BLACK
IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
AUGUST 16-21, 2005

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
AUGUST 27, 2005

SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2005
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
(404) 872-6410
info@intheatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com
SEE PAGE 13 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OCTOBER

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE, INC.

OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
CONTACT PERSON: Carlton Smith
410-524-1555/443-691-9669
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org
SEE PAGE 22 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6-9, 2005

JACKSON, MS
MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6 -9, 2005

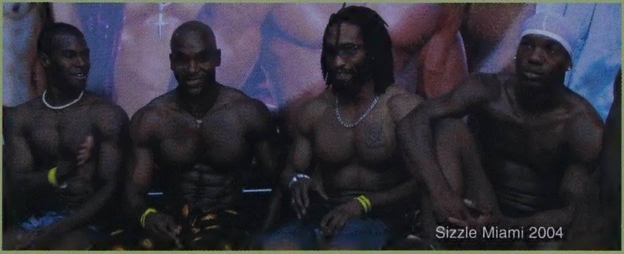
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2005
(615) 259-4866 Ext. 269
brosunited@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com

NOVEMBER

NEW ORLEANS, LA
POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2005

At The Beach - LA


Sizzle Miami 2004

Pride Events/Circuits Listed With A (*) Have Elected Not To Become Members Of The Federation At This Time

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Fridays BLACKOUT FRIDAYS

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Saturdays MILKSHAKE SATURDAYS

::: "My Milk Shake Bring All The Boys To The Bar"
Music By DJ JFK (Hip-Hop) & DJ Goose (House) Doors Open @ 10PM • Restaurant Open

Sundays CLUB 708 AFTER PARTY

::: FREE Admission All Night‹ Doors open at 9pm
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by Herndon L. Davis

SPIRITUAL ROMANCE:

AN ADAM AND STEVE LOVE STORY

The following is the first of a three part essay series dealing with the vibrant intersection of spirituality and sexuality within the black gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving community. The series mission is to provide a guideline on how to seek out healthy romantic, same-gender-loving relationships under the spiritual guidance and direction of God.

Rarely are the words erection and God used in the same sentence. Why is this? If God invented sex, sexuality, sexual desire, sexual orientation, erections, and orgasms then why is there such timidity in discussing such topics openly during a Sunday school discussion or even during a sermon?

Why is there such an uncomfortable mood when speaking frankly and unabashedly about the joys and challenges of sex within the spiritual context in which we live and breathe especially within the black gay/lesbian community? Sex isn,t just for procreation and reproduction, but was also created as an intimate spiritual exchange between two people for their mutual enjoyment and understanding.

However, within the same-gender-loving community, there is still a staunch resistance to the idea of marrying our spirituality with our sexuality especially when it comes to our gay/lesbian dating and relationships.

Many still believe that „God won,t bless this mess‰ so why pray about our romantic relationships and the sexual expressions that come from it. There is still fear and shame from gays/lesbians in coming to God in complete honesty and asking for his guidance and advice in ordaining and blessing their same-gender-loving relationships.

It is this mental resistance that we must finally shed as we pursue healthy, monogamous, same-gender-loving relationships within a growing spiritual relationship with God and with each other. Hence, we as black gay/lesbians must now learn to pursue a „Spiritual Romance‰ with one another and not just a sexual one.

So what is a Spiritual Romance?? It is the fullest integration of one,s spiritualism and one,s romanticism. It is the dynamic merging and crystallization of one,s faith/belief system and one,s emotional and erotic connection with the opposite or same gender.

Spiritual Romance is the „how to‰ of meeting, greeting, dating, and committing to one another within a covenant relationship under the spiritual auspices of God. And for the same-gender-loving community there is no difference. Spiritual Romance is the „how to‰ of how Adam and Steve and Ruth and Naomi, meet, greet, date, and commit to one another within a covenant relationship under the spiritual auspices of God.

There are three major steps we must take in order to enter into the realm of Spiritual Romance.

1. Focus FIRST on your relationship with God and the rest will follow

Let God define who you are, never allow anyone else to do it. Learn to submit to him, lean upon him, listen to him, and trust him for your every need and desire in life. Allow God to complete you and bestow upon you your purpose in life. Seek to discover and to live out your spiritual gifts and talents without shame or denial of who you are in the process.

Understand who you are in the entire universal plan. Meditate and pray often. Become a completed, whole, confident being before even thinking about engaging in a serious committed same-gender-loving relationship.

2. Pray asking God to direct and guide you to the same-gender-loving person that you are seeking.

Obviously this step is a very difficult one for many. As a result, too many people needlessly toil and suffer in their dating and relationships because they feel too guilty, ashamed, and unworthy to ask God for direction and romantic guidance concerning a person of the same gender.

By clinging to their unworthiness state, many gay/lesbians truly miss out on an opportunity to be blessed by God. They forget the word says to step boldly to his throne and to also ask anything in Jesus, name. They forget the scripture that says to delight yourself in the Lord and he will bless you with the desires of your heart.

If you sincerely want a monogamous, loving, trusting, and spiritually grounded relationship with a person of the same gender, then you MUST pray to God, sharing with him exactly what your desires are.

You must pray before this person comes into your life, pray during the relationship both separately and together, and then continue to pray in the event the two of you should separate. Prayer should be a constant in all of our lives, and not reserved for special moments of need.

3. Opposites may attract but like personalities with a spiritually yoked person is a much wiser choice.

A relationship is a ying-yang, push-pull, complementary, thriving, and continued growth experience. As your mutual love for God grows, so does your relationship along with your ability to withstand the slings, arrows, darts, circumstances and events that will impact against your relationship and each other.

Being both spiritually yoked does not mean that you must believe and understand identically, but instead it means that the two of you hold very similar belief systems and approaches to life. When you have these things in common, growth occurs. When growth occurs, it will happen to both of you and not just to one of you. Further, the growth will occur in the same direction, binding the two of you together.

When people grow apart it is often because one has grown into a new dimension in their lives while the other one hasn,t. The change happens gradually over time and is often unnoticed. Gays/lesbians must take a special effort to do more spiritual screening and consideration before going forward into a relationship.

Internalized homophobia is a major hurdle to overcome. If one of you has overcome it spiritually and the other one still thinks homosexuality is a sin, then you must consider the strain and stress upon your relationship.

Finally, there are no guarantees that a spiritually yoked same-gender-loving couple will remain together. There are still many other factors that weigh heavily upon the success of your relationship. However, a spiritually yoked same-gender loving couple has a much better chance of staying together trough thick and thin over the course of time because of their like belief systems and approaches to life.

The next installment is titled „Spiritual Sex: Can you Make Love to Gospel Music?‰ Are you able to get your groove on to the melodic sounds of CeCe Winans, Smokey Norful and others? If not, why?

Herndon L. Davis is a Los Angeles based writer and author of *"Black, Gay & Christian"* and can be reached at http://blackgaychristian.com

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VII
GAY GAMES
CHICAGO 2006

From 15-22 July 2006, Chicago will play host to the world and welcome thousands of athletes, spectators and cultural participants into our homes, our hearts and our city for the seventh quadrennial Gay Games Sports and Cultural Festival. The Games will feature 12,000 participants, competition in 30 sports, world-class athletes and artists, band and choral performances, nightly medal ceremonies, a week-long arts festival, parties, and spectacular opening and closing ceremonies featuring entertainment, pageantry, and the parade of participants from more than 70 countries.

The Gay Games are open to anyone. There are no qualifying events, no minimum or maximum requirements, and no mandatory affiliations. The Games are built on the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best, and promote a supportive environment, free from bigotry, where participants achieve success by their own measure. More than a tournament or cultural program, the Gay Games is a gathering of the international sports and arts community that changes lives, attitudes, and the very nature of competition.
In 1982, Dr. Tom Waddell, a 1968 Olympic decathlete, founded the Games primarily to showcase LGBT sports, describing it as "an experiment in global unity; an experiment in education; a vehicle for change." Since that time nearly 50,000 individuals of different races, genders, sexual orientations, national origin, physical and athletic abilities, health statuses, ages, religious and socio-economic backgrounds have come together from around the world in the spirit of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best. For 25 years, these values have helped to foster an international LGBT sports movement that builds bridges across borders, eradicates stereotypes, and truly changes the world. If you are a recreational or master athlete, an emerging or acclaimed artist, physically challenged, young or old, near or far, LGBT or heterosexual, you are invited to join us in Chicago for a week of friendship, open expression, and global community.

This will be a Gay Games for the ages. The sports and cultural components will be directed by experts in their fields, the tournaments and performances will be professionally organized, the competition and culture will be top flight, and the events will be held at world-class facilities sure to bring out your personal best. Most activities will be bundled into four sports villages to maximize convenience and to foster camaraderie and support among participants. The villages, easily accessible by public transportation, are built around some of Chicago's most stunning recreational, cultural, and historic centers.

2002
145
146

When you enter Soldier Field on Sunday, 15 July 2006, and bask in the emotion of our Opening Ceremony, you will begin to understand the passion that drives the Gay Games. Throughout the next 8 days, whether you take home a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Participation Medal, or simply come to support your friends and colleagues in their own dreams, you will have memories of a lifetime, and mark your place in the 25-year legacy of the Gay Games. Visit http://www.gaygameschicago.org/ for more information on the games.

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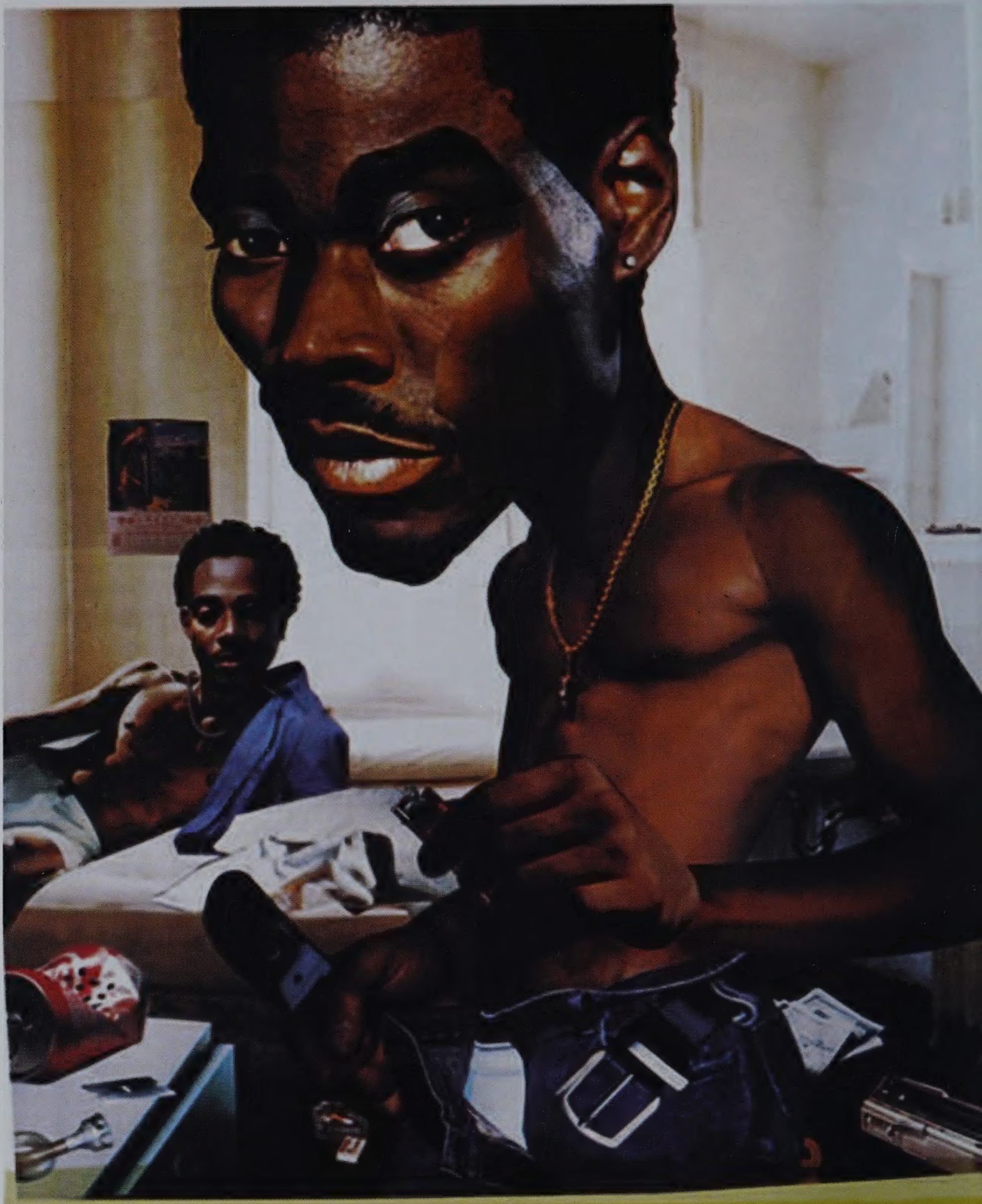

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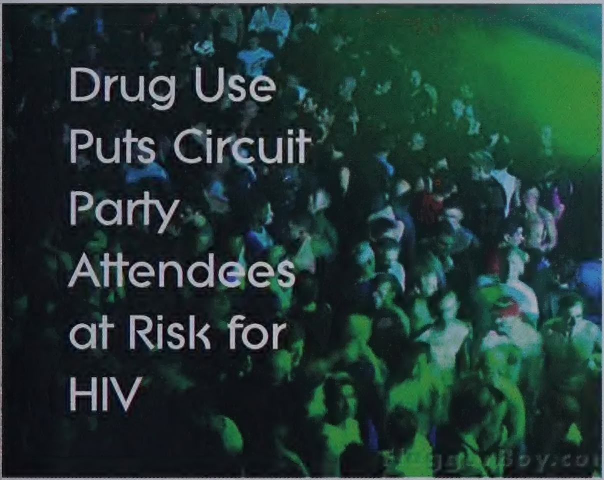
health & FITNESS

by jon garbo



Drug Use Puts Circuit Party Attendees at Risk for HIV

Rampant drug use and risky sex are commonplace at circuit parties and pride events, putting party-goers at substantial risk for HIV infection, according to a study of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, CA who attended these events. The study was first published in the American Journal of Public Health.

HIV and STD transmission among party attendees is "a real public health concern."Researchers from the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention surveyed gay and bisexual men age 18 and older who attended at least one circuit party in the previous year. Some respondents were recruited outside of gay venues (such as nightclubs, gyms, a gay pride event, sex clubs and other businesses). Others responded to flyers that advertised the study, or were referred by participants already enrolled. Almost 60 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 97 percent identified as gay.

The study found that a high percent of the men used at least one psychoactive drug during the last circuit party they attended. Ecstasy was the most popular (75 percent had taken it), ketamine the second most popular (58 percent) and alcohol the third (56 percent). Around 7 percent of the men said they passed out, needed medical assistance or could not take care of themselves as a result of using drugs.

In addition, 29 percent of respondents reported having multiple sex partners (with whom they had oral or anal sex) during the event. Among these men, 24 percent reported unprotected anal sex with a partner whose HIV serostatus was different from theirs or unknown to them. Almost half of all respondents reported having a primary partner (defined as someone they lived with or seen a lot and to whom they felt a special emotional commitment), but among these men, 27 percent reported multiple sex partners (oral or anal) during the festivities. Overall, 17 percent of respondents said their most recent HIV test was positive and 83 percent said it was negative.

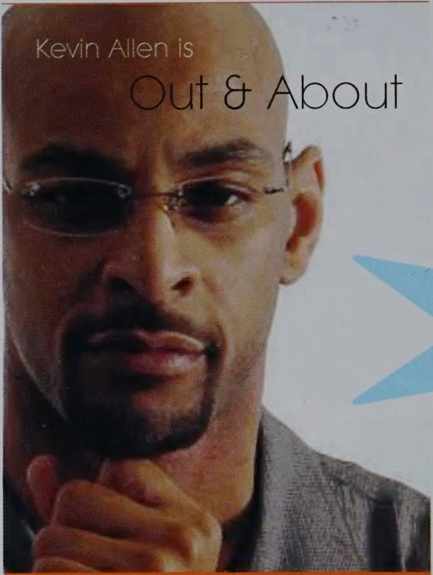
"As a whole, these findings suggest that a substantial drug culture permeates the circuit party environment, a drug culture that is distinct from broader communities of gay and bisexual men," the study authors wrote. In addition, drug use was found to increase sexual risk behavior, so much so that the study authors called the likelihood of HIV and STD transmission among party attendees "a real public health concern."

On an encouraging note, making condoms and safer sex and drug abuse information available to party-goers may help reduce their risk-taking behavior, according to the study. The researchers attended a circuit party where condoms and pamphlets were displayed. Over 60 percent of attendees noticed the condoms, and around one-third of these men helped themselves to some. In the case of the pamphlets, around one-third of the men took notice, of whom around 28 percent read the safer sex info and 53 percent read the drug abuse info.

"Condom visibility and accessibility are important factors in condom use," the study authors wrote. And in the case of drugs, "attendees need to be knowledgeable about multi-drug interactions and mixing psychoactive drugs with medical treatments [such as antiretrovirals]."

The researchers urged public health officials to reach out to circuit party attendees, and for organizers of these parties to implement risk-reduction strategies.

Film DOCUMENTARY



Kevin Allen is Out & About

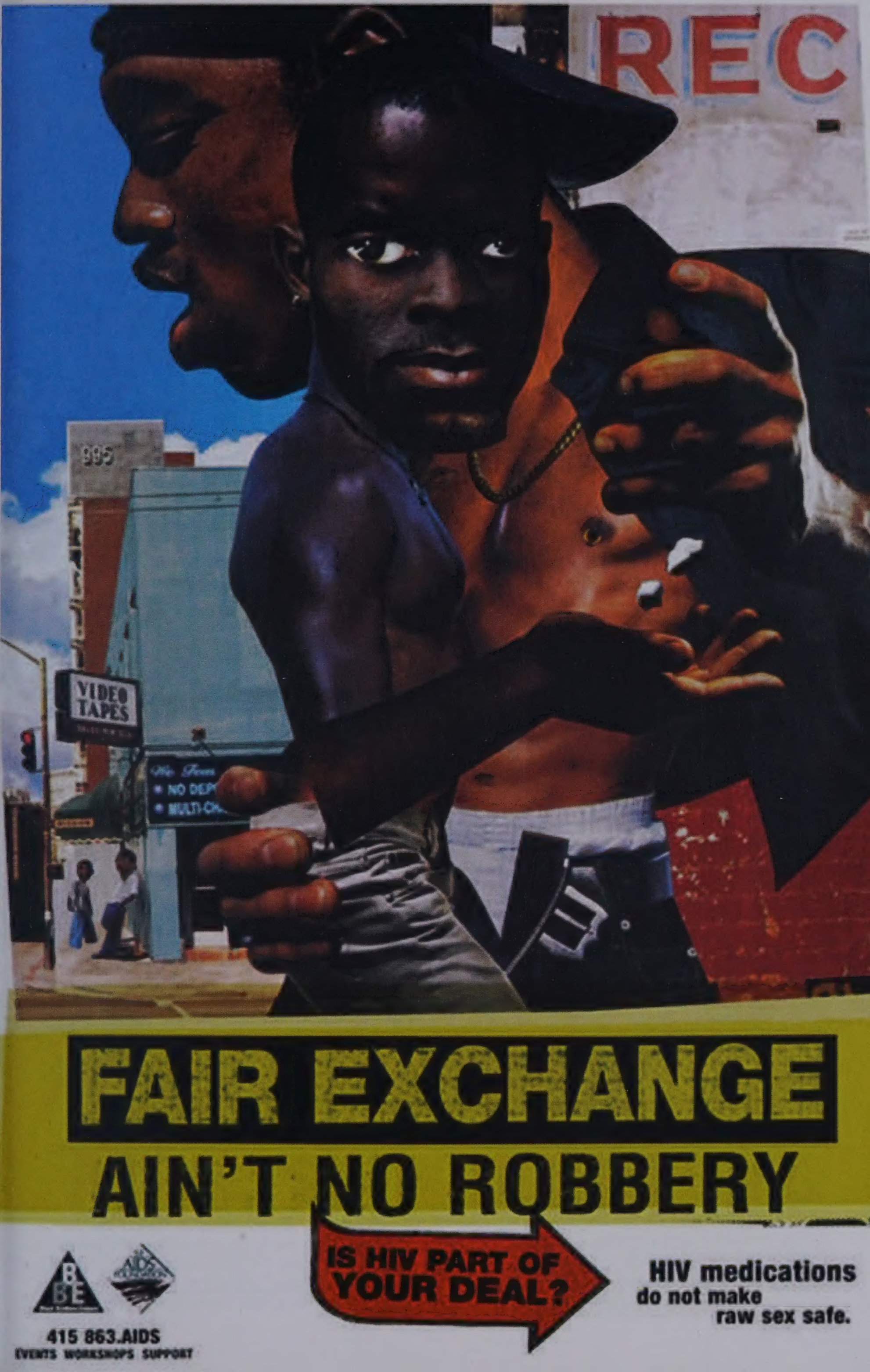
Atlanta Magazine recent featured a story On the Down Low by Chandra R. Thomas. The article's main story centers around Kevin F. Allen a former down low African American male who's come to terms with his sexuality. Allen is the Vice President of Sales & Marketing of Senwot Nella Productions an independent film company located in Atlanta, Georgia, which he also co-founded.

Allen's production company is scheduled to release a documentary this month on the subject entitled *Living On The Low: Exploring The Lives Of Men Living On The Down Low.* The Screening tour is being launched in Atlanta, Georgia at the wonderful Woodruff Arts Center on Monday, February 28, 2005, at 7:00 PM.

Living On The Low is an in-depth documentary presenting real-life stories from men who have come clean from living that type of life and men who are still "living on the down low". Executive Producers Kevin F. Allen and Maurice Townes of Senwot Nella Productions and Ronda Noel of Noel Entertainment -- an independent film company based in Beverly Hills -- takes you deep into this guarded world and expose the hidden secrets, lies and denial, which run rampant among this chosen lifestyle. Watch these intriguing stories from men as they truthfully explain their manipulation and deception tactics towards their women/wives, their fears of exposure, and their struggle to stay hidden or come clean. Allen, hopefully leading by example, faces women of his past and candidly describes his experiences with women and men while living many years within the DL world. Watch DL secrets further unravel during real-life interviews from two "un-identified" men (i.e. a professional athlete and a married physician of twenty-one years) currently living on the DL and three men who have come clean from living this lifestyle. Journey with an Artist, Ijumo Hayward, who fled his home country Bermuda ten years ago, when his wife discovered through his renderings his hidden secret life and threatened to exposed him to his prominent family and business associates. The documentary concludes with an intimate group of women, hosted by Journalist Chandra R. Thomas of Atlanta Magazine, expressing their diverse views, some sharing their real-life experiences of being misled, feelings of frustration and violation, failed expectations, and finally accepting the fact that some men will continue to choose to live a "down low" lifestyle. Watch as these women obtain all of the answers to their burning DL questions from former DL men and two un-identified current DL men. The women go toe-to-toe with the DL men and it gets pretty heated.

Since Kevin is no longer living this double life and hurting others he feels liberated and at peace with himself. Allen says he fought with business partner and best friend Maurice Townes and manger Ronda Noel regarding exposing his former down low lifestyle to the world. He continues, "'I didn't want to be viewed as one of those men that's jumping on the sensationalism of the down low craze. When my business partners pointed out to me the legitimate reasons for developing this project/piece, we had to move forward with it.' Ronda, a heterosexual, married mother of three, who's a Christian, explained to us, '-- this DL thing is everyone's problem. It needs to be addressed correctly.' She continued to voice concerns about her children and the preservation of the younger generation. Ronda continued, 'we need to nip this in the bud now and not leave yet another issue for our children to resolve.' Maurice, who's an openly gay Black man, loved the idea because it provided him with another avenue to drive his nagging message of the behavior of DL men to the forefront."

Never in Allen's wildest dreams did he expect his soap opera, The CLOSET, to give birth to the documentary Living On The Low: Exploring The Lives Of Men Living On The Down Low. The CLOSET was created to display positive images of the gay and lesbian community and to expose the hidden, deceitful and manipulative down low lifestyle that's running rampant among men/women of all races. Kevin concludes by stating, "I just want people who are on the down low to see our products, look within themselves and analyze the way they are living their lives."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Up Close With

Stanly Bennet Clay

Photo credit: Andre LaVelle

Story By: Dwight Powell
Interview By: Justin Hall

In Search Of Pretty Young Black Men

A veteran in the publishing and entertainment field, Stanley Bennett Clay is no stranger to the Black Gay Community. Probably best know for his magnificent magazine SBC, published out of Los Angeles, Stanley is an icon admired and idolized for decades. Born in Chicago, Illinois Clay has been a Los Angeles resident since 1963.

Over the years Clay has gained various awards and distinctions. Among them, Clay received 3 NAACP Theatre Awards and 3 Drama-logue Awards for writing, directing and co-producing the stage play ***Ritual.*** Also, he is the first recipient of the African American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award (1990) and received Genre magazine's 1993 Role Model to the Gay Community's Lifeguard Award.

Clay produced on stage the GLAAD, LA. Weekly, LA. Times and NAACP Award-winning musical ***Children of the Night*** and the world premiere of James Graham Bronson's ***Willie & Esther.*** That production received 2 LA. Weekly Awards---Best Play and Best Ensemble Performance.

Clay also wrote, produced, directed and composed ***Street Nativity*** (a musical commissioned by the National Council of Negro Women for the Black Family Reunion Festival), wrote, produced and directed the play ***Lovers,*** directed the west coast productions of Jonin' (Drama-logue Award/Direction) and ***The First Breeze of Summer*** (for which he also wrote the musical score), produced and starred in (opposite BerNadette Stanis) Anna

Lucasta (for which he received the NAACP Best Actor Image Award), and produced, directed and wrote the musical score for such original stage shows as *Nobody Likes Ugly* and *Don't Ask!*

He is the author of the novels *Diva (Holloway House)* and *In Search of Pretty Young Men* (Simon & Schuster/Atria Books). The latter was just awarded The N.Y. Hotep Society Book Award for Best Gay Novel. He is the recipient of the International Black Writers of America's highest honor, The Edna Crutchfield Founder's Literary Achievement Award "In recognition of outstanding work as writer, publisher, producer and director of the written word."

Former Editor-In-Chief of Black Beat magazine and American Correspondent for London's Blues and Soul magazine, Clay published and edited SBC magazine for 10 years, at the time the most widely distributed periodical for the black gay and lesbian community.

Mr. Clay's new musical, *Looking For God*, premiered at the Celebrity Centre Garden Pavilion in Los Angeles on May 11th of 2004 and the stage version of *Why Do Fools Fall In Love*, for which he co-wrote the music and lyrics, is slated for a Broadway run during the fall 2006 season..

Clikque Magazine's associate, Justin Hall recent spoke with Clay and provided us with this intimate one on one interview.

[Justin] I have known Stanley Bennett Clay from afar, and as I came into my own homosexuality in the 90s there was a magazine, SBC, which let me know that there were others like me.

SBC is no longer in production, but clearly from reading this article thus far, you'll agree that Mr. Clay is definitely still producing

At the end of my conversation I came away with the feeling or rather the knowledge that Mr. Clay is a passionate man who loves his life and Black men.

Let's glance over some of the sound bites from our recent phone interview.

[Justin] What or who adds to the happiness of Stanley Bennett Clay?

[Clay] Being myself. Loving self and embracing the totality of me. Loving my Blackness, me being left-handed living in a right-handed world, my Gayness and me being an artist. What others may see as a weakness I see it or them as a strength.

I am a 55-year-old Black Gay Man with a 22-year old boyfriend and to those people who have issues with that I say, Fuck em and feed em beans,

I was openly gay before Stonewall.

I appreciate and am grateful to those individuals who say that I am talented. I write music, direct films, I had a wonderful acting career, and it continues. I do not take these gifts for granted."

[Justin] What is your opinion on the current state of Black Gay Men?

[Clay] I find it fascinating and depressing.

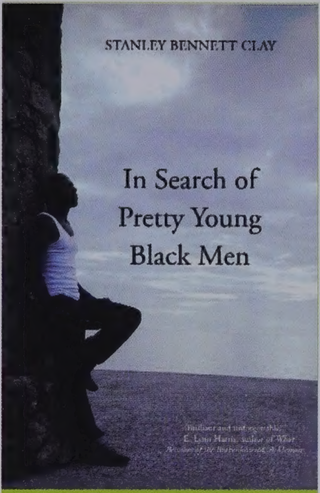
I recall fondly the freeness of the 60s and 70s and how the effects of HIV/AIDS has offset that freedom, at least sexually.

A man is in essence a man. It is not limited to being or defining yourself as a thug, being on the DL, feeling that you are a walking dick, fuck 24/7, having 20 babies, not able to hug another man, not being able to cry.

A man to me as I consider myself is one who is able to cry, able to say that I love another man. It is so many things.

It is about being a soft man or a trans man and embracing

CLAY CONTINUES ON PAGE 44



IN SEARCH OF PRETTY YOUNG BLACK MEN is the tale of Dorian Moore, a mysterious and seductive young man who provides comfort to the moneyed, the neglected, the lost, and the lonely men and women in an elegant black hilltop community in Southern California.

Among the women is Maggie Lester-Allegro, who, disillusioned by a loveless marriage, finds support in her small circle of women friends and sexual healing in Dorian's arms.

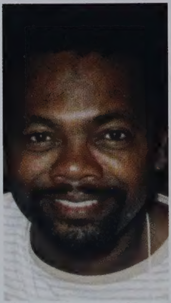
Maggie's husband, Lamont, seeks sexual solace outside of their trophy marriage as well. He lives in the shadow of his larger-than-life father, a member of the Baldwin Hills gentry, and under the weight of secrets and lies that threaten to tumble the walls of his carefully guarded life and standing among the elite.

This novel is a poetically rendered, provocative, and revealing tale that challenges every notion of what we believe equals success, prestige, and, most of all, love.

(Simon & Schuster/Atria Books)

CLAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

those qualities about you." "The Silent Sissies of the Pew is a term I call some men who sit in church while their preacher demonizes their sexuality all the while asking for money that they put in the collection plate.



Stanley Bennett Clay

[Justin] Mr. Clay is there Hope?

[Clay] Yes, there is hope, as this too shall pass.

[Justin] Mr. Clay loves Black people and especially the Black man. When talking with him as our phone conversation exceeded 15 minutes (lol) you hear the passion in his voice of not just loving his brothers but also loving himself as he too is a Black Man.

[Clay] Black people are marvelous. From slavery to present we don,t just achieve, we over-achieve.

[Justin] He does say that we as a community tend to be much harder on ourselves than that of others not of our race. Mr. Clay wants each of us to stand in front of a mirror naked and behold the beauty that stands before you.

[Clay] We are so pretty that it's stupid.

[Justin] Mr. Clay says that for too long we as Black Gay Men have fallen into the myth that gay is equated to only those who are white, which as many of us know for sure is false. We are Black Gay Men who love other Men. Mr. Clays says that those in power intentionally keep people ignorant as you are then able to control them. Mr. Clays message to Black Gay Men:

[Clay] Black Gay Men keep in mind that there are a lot of people who are not going to like you be you Black and/or Gay and I encourage you to not internalize that and feel that you are a bad person as you are not. If someone does not like you on the basis that you are a Black Gay Man say what I say, fuck em and feed em beans.

[Justin] What do you know for sure. What resonates for you?

[Clay] I know for sure that I am living a privileged and blessed life. In spite of the challenges that I have been and continue to live in this skin, think these thoughts, and be able to express myself as I do, is really a good thing. I like being Stanley Bennett Clay

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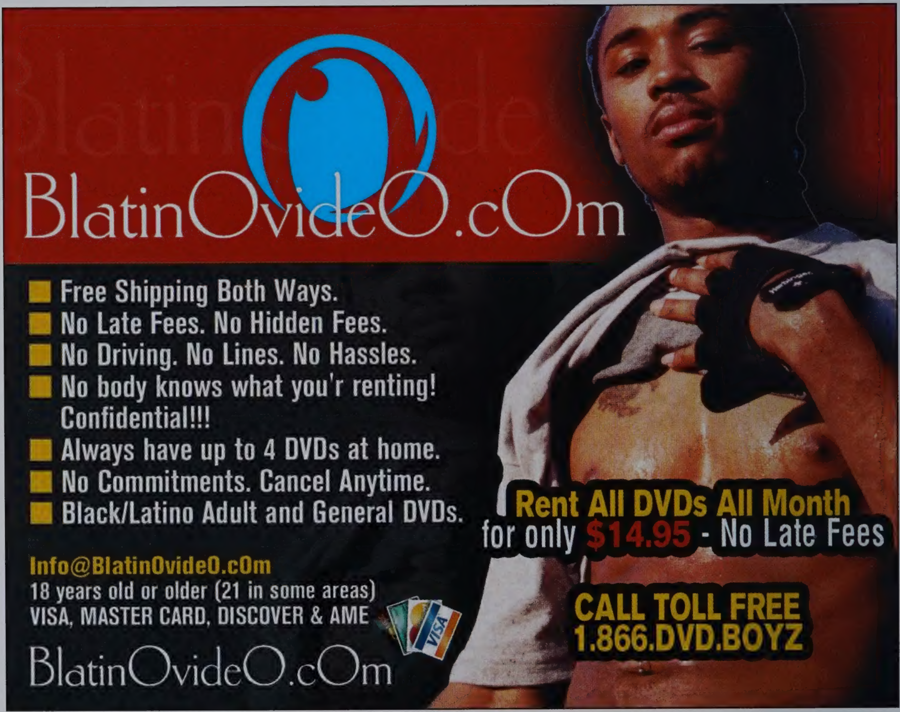

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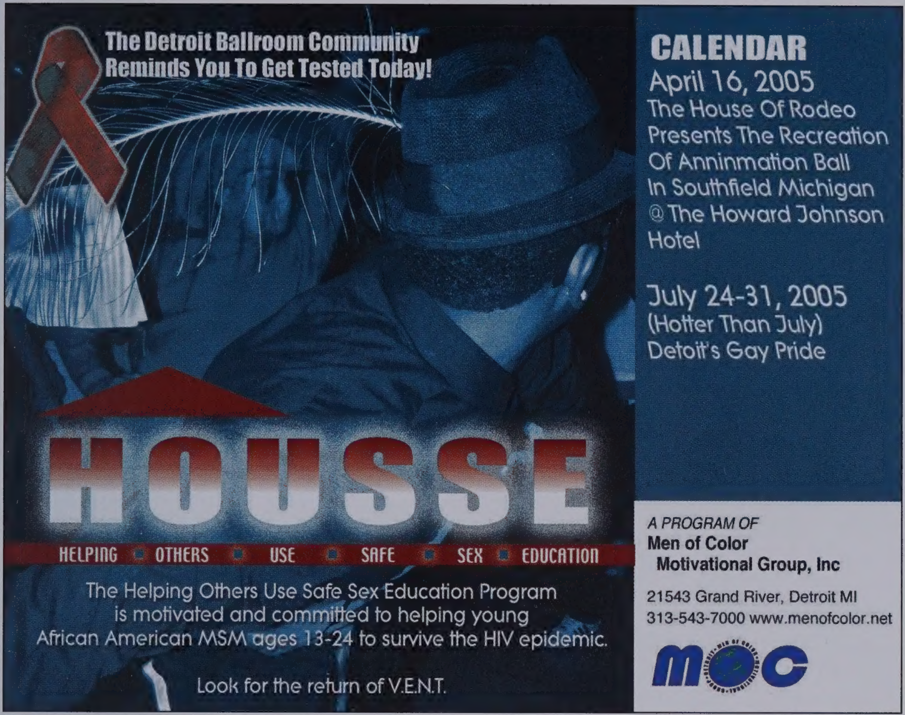

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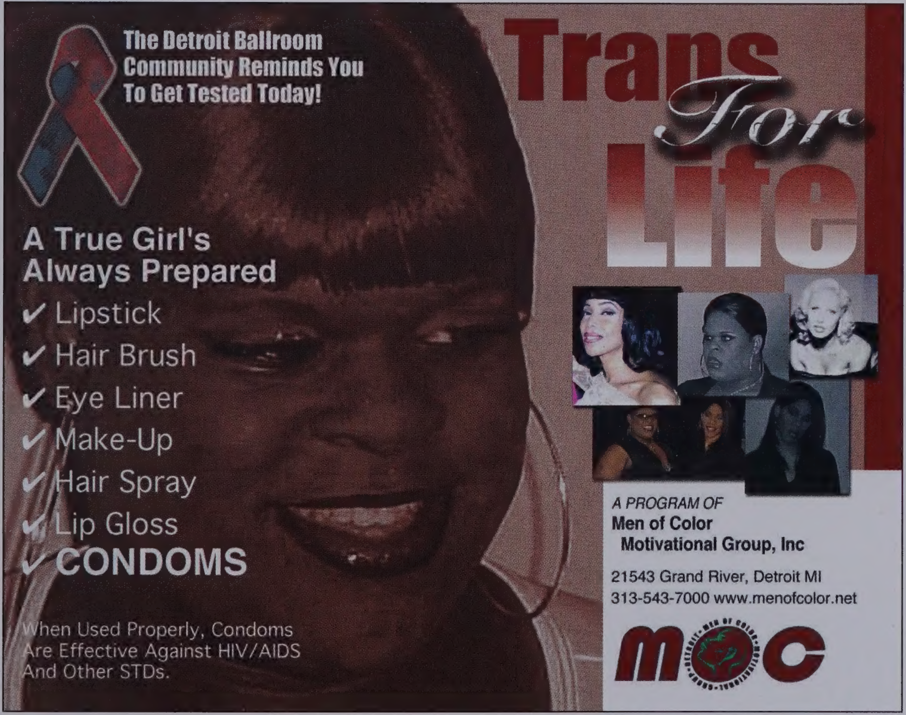

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Exploring The World Behind The Lens of

Jerry Boles

Jerry Boles started in front of the camera, and on stage during the era when Beverly Johnson, Renault White and Ben Wilson were at the helm of their career, Grace Jones was just beginning to gain popularity in the underground music market. Back then it was hard for Jerry because he was from the projects in the Southside of Chicago, For a short time Jerry was in a street gang, but soon found his way in pursuit of his calling....behind the camera.

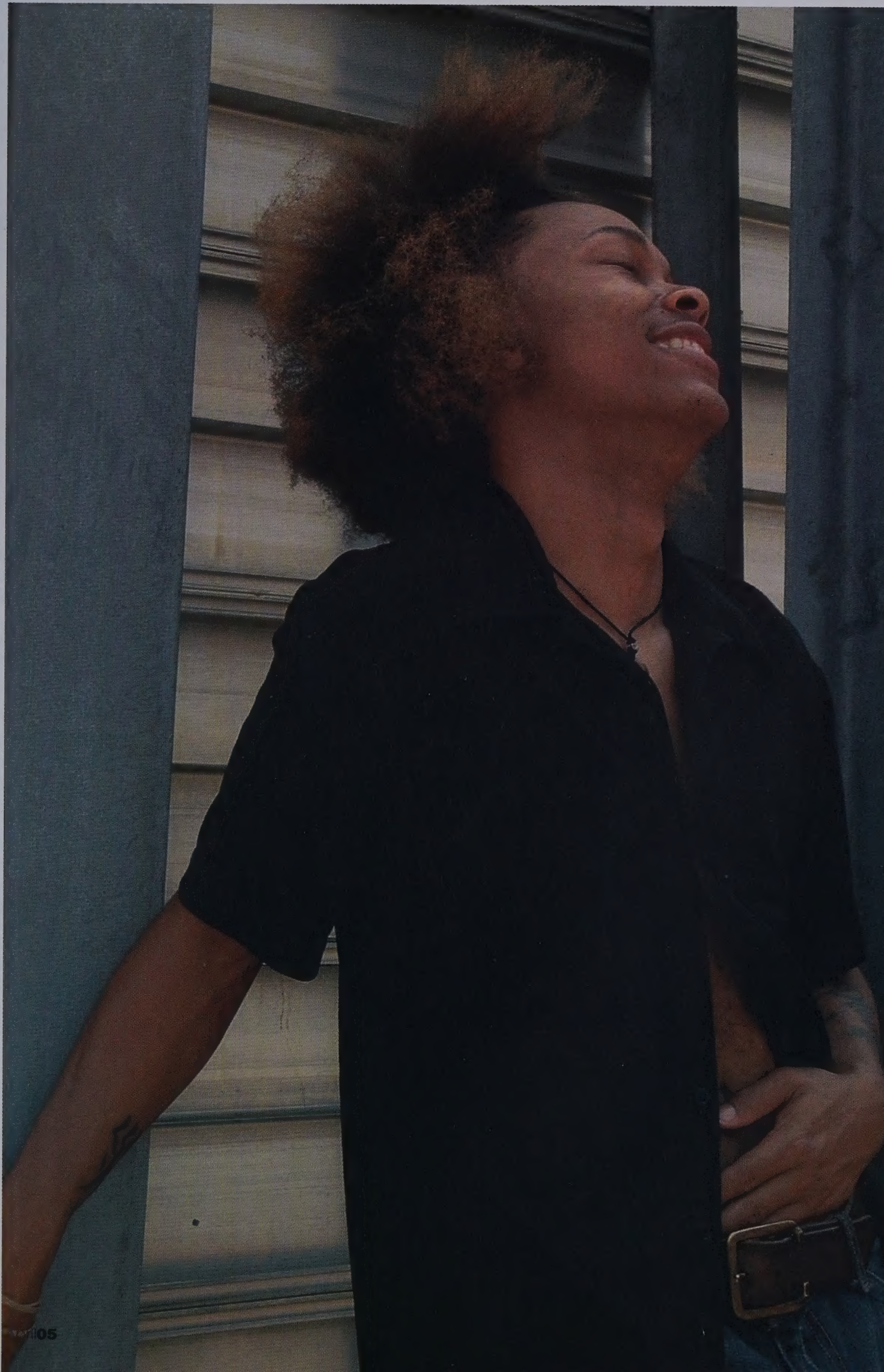
He got his first exposure in the fashion while working at the Conrad Hilton in 1979. (Now called the Chicago Hilton and Towers). Jerry soon moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, California and became extremely intrigue with the fashion industry. Working at the Hilton and living in LA. opened his eyes to a lot of things, Jerry had the opportunities to be in the company of some of the richest people in the world and walk down some of the most famous streets neighborhoods during that period. All of this changed his perception on life. Jerry soon realized that although he and his family once lived ion welfare in the projects of Chicago, with dedication, commitment and hard work he would not have to live in poverty again.

This drive and determination took Jerry back to Chicago where he got involved in the Fashion Industry with Tony Mitchell. Tony took Jerry in and schooled him about life, (Gay life in particularly) fashion, designing and photography. Tony owned a beauty salon, modeling school, hosted his own T.V. Show and Radio Show. All of the Top Black Radio Stations and Promoters were asking us to do Fashion Shows almost three and four nights a week, This put Jerry right in the mist of the Fashion and Entertainment Industry. For several years that is all he did; Eat, sleep fashion, designing, fashion shows, voiceovers,...you named it, he had his hands in it.

Eventually, Jerry started his own Production Company and began putting on shows an working with Models in Chicago, Spending a lot of time helping models get their portfolio together, Jerry interviewed some of the top fashion photographers in the city. "One of the Model s introduce me to a photographer from Rome Italy. Her Name was Antonella Pizzoli and

BOLES CONTINUES ON PAGE 48

Jerry Boles Photography



BOLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

we became friends and I asked her to teach me how to photograph," Recalls Jerry. He was honored to be working with Antonella, because she was one of the world's top photographer and well respected. Her work was on all of sorts of magazine covers and billboards.

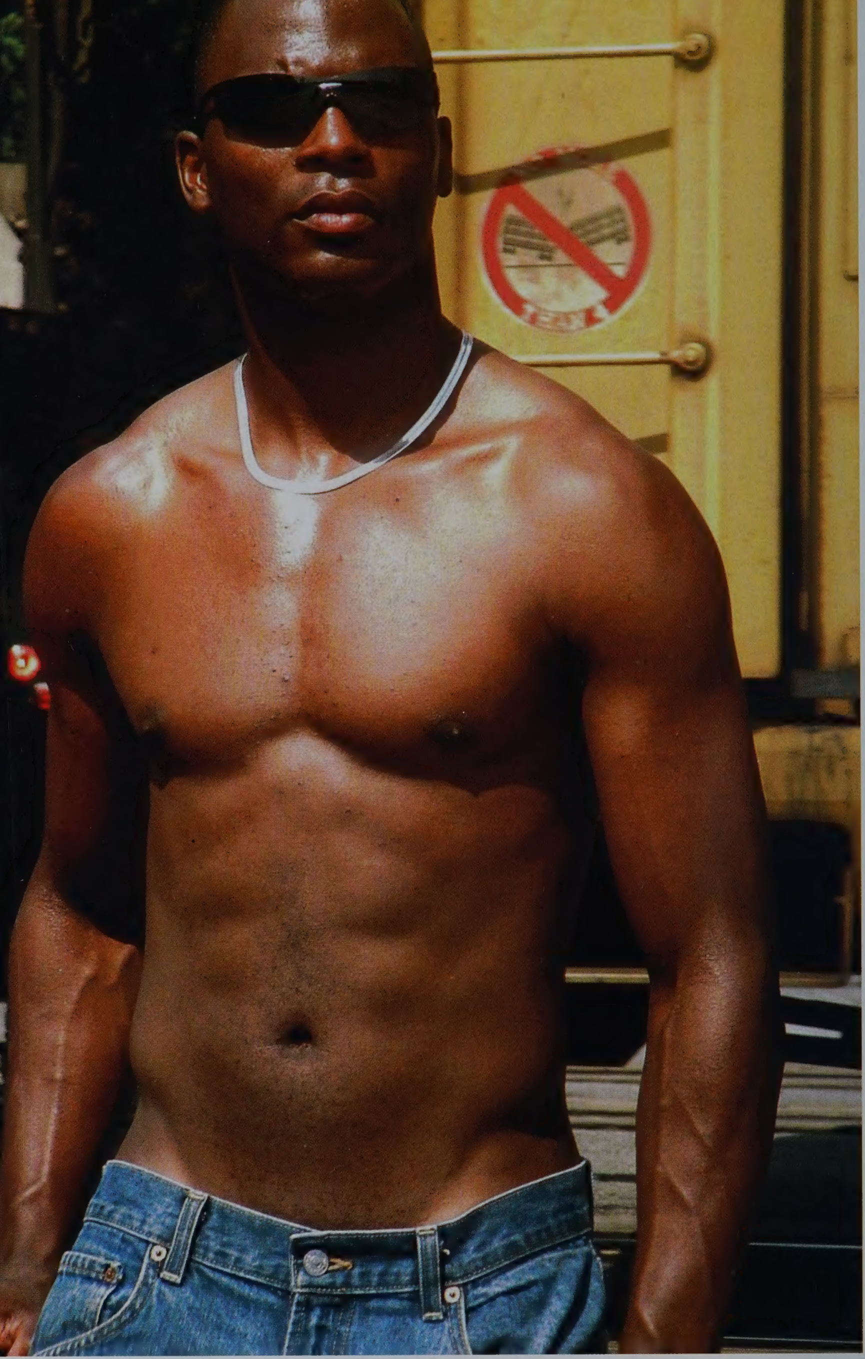
Clikque recently caught-up with Jerry Boles in Atlanta, his current home for the past 4 years. Here are some moments he shared with us;

My first success story was a model I discovered waling down State Street In Chicago, her name was Ava, and she was picked a finalist in the "FACE of 80 Contest " For the Ford Modeling Agency of New York. My second discovery was a messenger named Rich Kirk, and he had this "James Dean" look. He was instantly grabbed up by a top agency in Chicago. I think the one that really got me to start thing about pursuing photography professionally was a young man that walked into office one-day looking like "Clark Kent" and I sent him to one of my photographers, he was instantly swept up by one of the agency in Chicago. He first advertisement was for Marshall Field. I was so excited by all of the talent I was meeting off the streets. Talents whose careers had taken off in such a short period of time.

Sidetracked by my personal relationship and other stuff I became less intrigued with photography. After the person whom I considered to be my life-partner walked out of my life....I was devastated...he was the key to keeping me going. I dropped out of sight for a while and would only show up at a fashion show here and there.....and maybe do a few shoots but I was not pursuing my career as much as I needed to. I took on another career as an armed security officer with special assignments that almost made me decided a pursue a career as a law enforcement officer. After 64 arrest, court cases, raids and being shot at a few times. I decided that this was not a life choice for me. So, I decided to go back to something I love doing and I didn't have to wear 30-45lb of gear for 8-11 hours per day.

In 1999 I visited Atlanta where I met a young man that introduces me to the Internet. He showed me how to put my work online and within a few months I had editors and publishers contact me about previewing my photography in their magazines, advertisement, etc. I was actually overwhelmed by the response from people I have never met. I was so excited when Clikque Magazine accepted one of my models in their ad campaign for the first Tampa Jamz 2000. This was a great opportunity for the both of us during that period. I met another photographer named Rondu; I was so fascinated by her work, the models...stunning. I wondered to myself, how she was able to find those types of models. She told me to head South and I started working on plans to re-locate to Atlanta. Today, I utilize the Internet tremendously because it allows me to connect on a global scale.

Since relocating to Atlanta, in 2001 Jerry Boles work has been viewed in 40 countries worldwide, countless of magazines advertisements and promotional material. He has a lot of offers on table and is evaluating each one of them very carefully. With Jerry's parting words, he has this to say: "I want to make sure that each offer is a benefit for the models and myself. I am very particular when it comes to selecting models to be in front of my cameras. That is hard to explain...but I can tell you this much....photography is a true passion....it allows me to LIVE."



Jerry Boles Photography

Jerry Boles Photography

A|X
ARMANI EXCHANGE

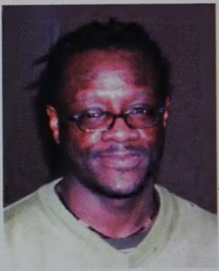
International Federation Of Black Prides Conference -Atlanta

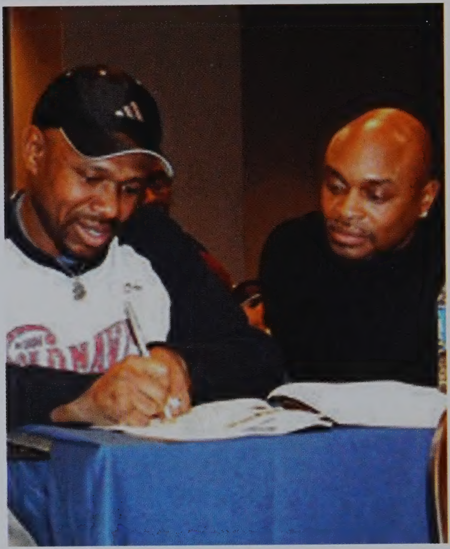
Earl Fowlkes

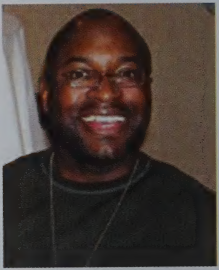
IFBP kicks off 2005 with annual conference

IFBP got off to a great start in 2005 with the annual IFBP Conference. The event took place the latter part of January in Atlanta, GA. Attendees of the conference included members of the IFBP Executive, Membership and Development committees.

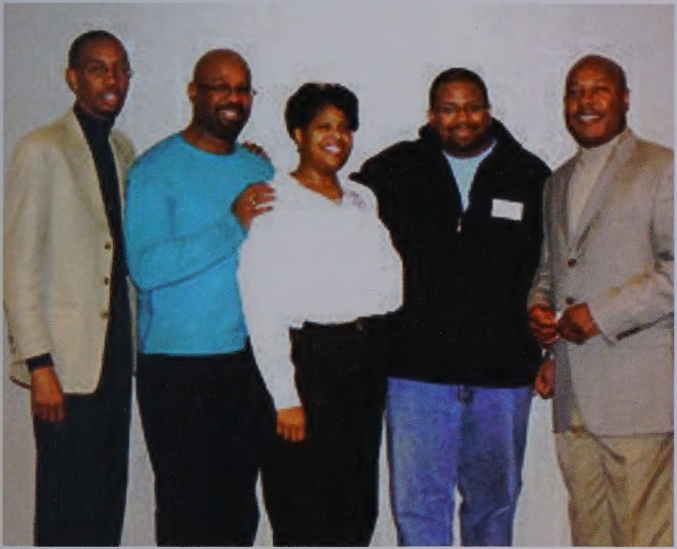
The primary focus of 2005's conference was the current organizational restructure of IFBP and future growth of the federation. A Board of Directors was established as part of the restructure and three new cities added to the federation's membership -- San Diego, Dallas, and Tampa Bay (Central Florida). In addition, former DC Black Pride President Earl Fowlkes was named IFBP President/CEO.







International Federation Of Black Prides Conference -Atlanta



Above Left to right:
Julian High, HRC;
Earl Fowlkes,IFBP;
Donna Payne, HRC;
Michael Slaughter, ITLA
Dr. G. Roberts, CDC.
Photo by Johnny Lee Jenkins

night life

club guide

Remember that clubs and bars go in and out of business all the time. It is usually a good idea to call before you go to any of th establishments listed below. Call 954-455-8781 To Advertise your club - $15/mo

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BURKHART'S
1492-F Piedmont Ave .... ☎404-872-4403

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree St........ ☎404-872-3025

THE CHAPARRAL
2715 Bufort Hwy ...... ☎404-634-3737

CLUB 708
708 Spring Street........ ☎404-874-8125
Website: www.legendary708.com

CLUB COLORS
1510 Piedmont Ave ...... ☎404-724-0611

HERETIC
2069 Cheshire Brdg .... ☎404-325-3061

LION'S DEN
Lava/Cosmopolitan Lounge
57 13th Street .... ☎770-991-6929

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave............ ☎904-353-6316

MIAMI/FT. LAUD/SOBE, FL

BOARDWALK
1721 N Andrews, ... ☎954-463-6969

BOULEVARD NIGHTCLUB
7770 Biscayne Blvd...... ☎305-759-0610

CLUB GT BAR
10205 NW 7th Ave ...... ☎305-756-0212

COPA
2800 S Federal Hwy,.... ☎954-463-1507

HOUSE (formally cactus)
2041 Biscayne Blvd, .. ☎305-438-0662

JADE LOUNGE
1766 Bay Road, ... ☎305-695-0000

J'S BAR
2780 Davie Blvd, ... ☎954-581-8400

OXYGEN LOUNGE
2911 Grand Ave............ ☎305-476-0202

SUGARS
17060 W. Dixie Hwy .. ☎305-940-9887

TRAXX SOUTH @ COLESIUM
2520 S. Miami Rd, ... ☎954-753-2525

TWIST
1057 Washington, Ave .. ☎305-538-9478

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road ...... ☎407-228-8226

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blosso.. ☎407-425-7571

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S Bumby Ave. ...... ☎407-898-0424

SOUTH BCH, FLORIDA

ANTHEM @ MANSION
1235 Washington Ave,
(www. anthemsundays.com)

SCORE
757 Lincoln Road........ ☎305-535-1111

TWIST
1057 Washington Ave .... ☎305-538-9478

TALLAHASSEE, FL

BROTHERS NIGHTCLUB
926 West Tharpe St .... ☎850-386-2399

CLUB PARK AVENUE (CPA)
115 East Park Ave. ...... ☎904-599-9143

TAMPA, FLORIDA

VALENTINE'S NIGHTCLUB
7522 N. Armenia Ave .. ☎813-936-1999

HARBOR CLUB
1915 East Grant Ave. .. ☎813-932-6712

WEST PALM BCH, FL

KASHMIRE
1651 S Congress .... ☎561-649-5557

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARABOX
1310 Russel Street .... ☎410-837-9110

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318 20th Street .... ☎205-322-8338

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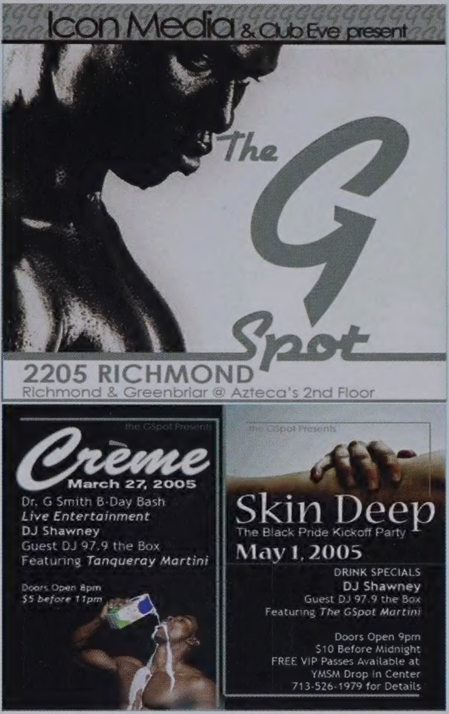

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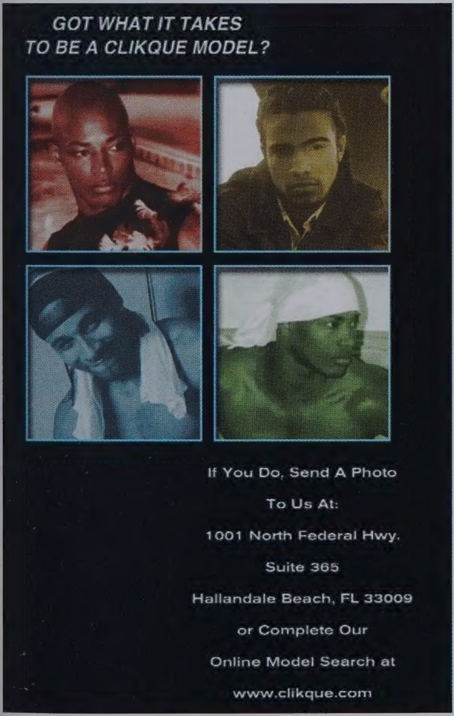

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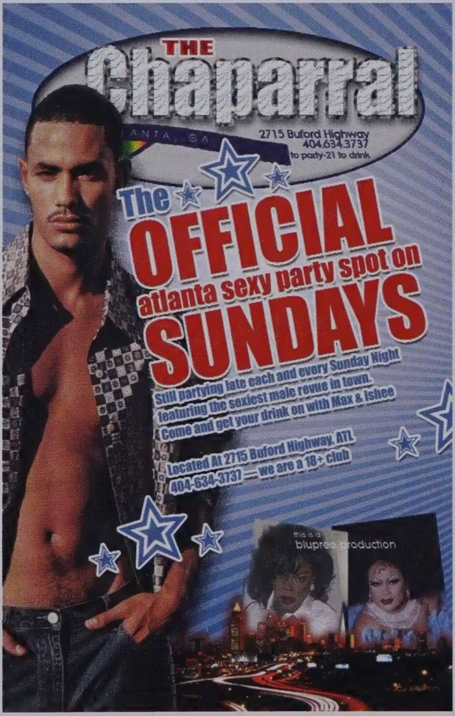

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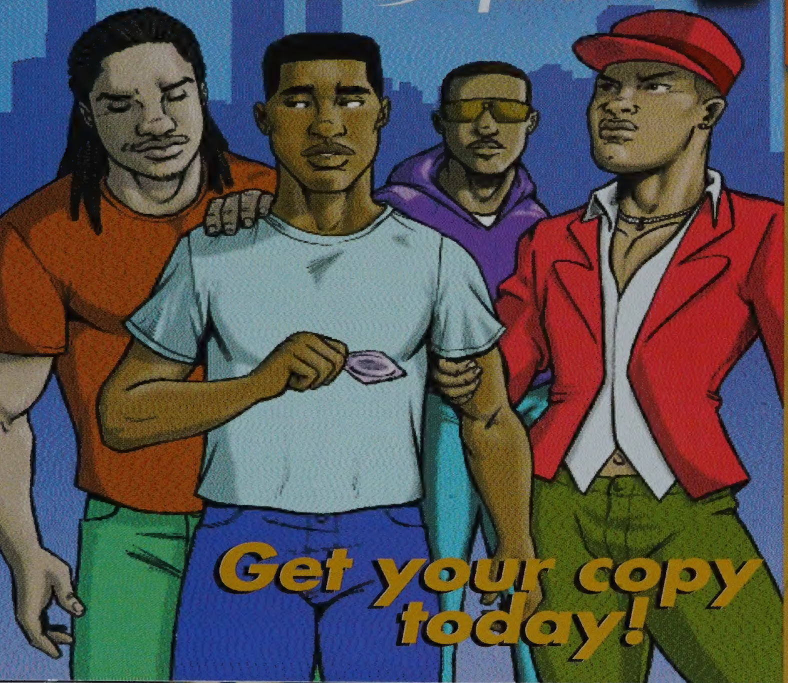

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58 April05

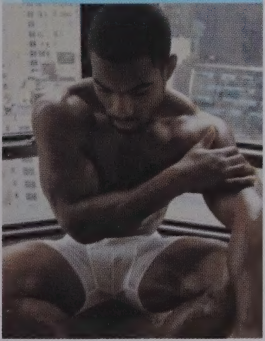
Exploring The SUPER BUG

Drug Resistant Strain of HIV Identified in New York

Q&A

This past February, New York City health officials reported that a local gay man in his mid-40s had recently been infected with multidrug-resistant HIV and progressed rapidly to AIDS. The man was first diagnosed with HIV this past December and is believed to have been infected between 2 and 20 months before experiencing symptoms of AIDS, including a steep drop in CD4 cells and a high viral load. It has also been reported that he has had a history of unprotected anal sex with multiple male partners while using crystal methamphetamine (crystal meth, speed).

Lab tests showed that the dominant viral strain in his body was a virulent form that was resistant to the first three antiretroviral drug classes: nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), and protease inhibitors (PIs). However, the man was reportedly responsive to the fusion inhibitor T-20 (enfuvirtide, Fuzeon).



Is this case really new?

Multi-drug-resistant strains of HIV are not new. Neither is rapid progression from HIV infection to clinical AIDS diagnosis–in some cases, within months–for some individuals. What is new about this case is the combination of drug resistance in a previously untreated person and such rapid progression to AIDS (in this case, CD4 counts below 100 cells/mm3 for more than a month). New York City health officials say that such quick progression to AIDS has not been seen before in a person with HIV resistant to three antiretroviral drug classes. This man's virus also appears to be a virulent, not weakened, form of virus that is associated with rapid disease progression. It would be premature, however, to draw sweeping assumptions or conclusions based on this limited information. Much more needs to be learned in the coming weeks about this case and its implications.

Has such rapid progression from HIV infection to AIDS diagnosis been seen before?

According to experts, the average time between HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis is 10 years or longer. However, this timeframe varies. Some people progress to AIDS more quickly than others due to their own susceptibility, not necessarily because of a new "supervirus." Crystal meth use and others factors specific to the individual have been mentioned as potentially affecting his progression to AIDS, but details about his medical history have not been fully released.

How concerned should I be about being infected with such a strain of the virus?

Certainly, the potential to become infected with drug-resistant virus is real and has been seen not just in this case but in other cases around the country. Drug-resistant HIV is a problem because treatment options become limited when the virus mutates and doesn't respond to multiple drugs and entire drug classes. For those who are already HIV positive, there is a small but potential risk of becoming reinfected with a different viral strain. But this one case in New York doesn't prove that there is a "supervirus" spreading in the community. More questions still need to be answered.

What can I do to protect myself from drug resistant HIV?

HIV infection, whether drug-resistant or not, can be prevented. For those who are sexually active, standard safer sex practices – in particular regular use of condoms when engaging in higher-risk sexual practices and knowing your HIV status and the HIV status of your partner – are known to be effective tools in reducing the risk of HIV transmission.

For injection drug users it is safest to use a new sterile syringe and equipment (including cotton, filters, caps, spoons, cookers, and alcohol swabs) every time you inject. You can obtain new syringes at needle exchange sites or pharmacies in some locations.

For more information about risk behavior, HIV testing, and needle exchange locations, call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-367-AIDS or visit www.aidshotline.org

Can I be tested for drug resistance?

Yes. Two different tests, known as genotypic and phenotypic tests, can be used by clinicians to check for drug-resistant HIV. For more information about these tests, you can contact your physician or call Project Inform's National Hotline at 1-800-822-7422 or visit www.projectinform.org

If I use crystal meth, am I more likely to get HIV or AIDS?

The New York case does not show a direct link between crystal meth use and the progression to AIDS. However, health providers are concerned that crystal meth use is contributing to new HIV infections by lowering sexual inhibitions and impairing judgment. It is also believed that crystal meth may negatively impact the body's immune system. Injecting speed, particularly when sharing needles, carries the additional risk of HIV and hepatitis transmission.

How can I learn more about preventing HIV and getting tested?

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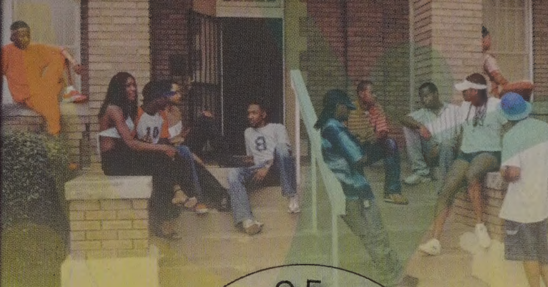

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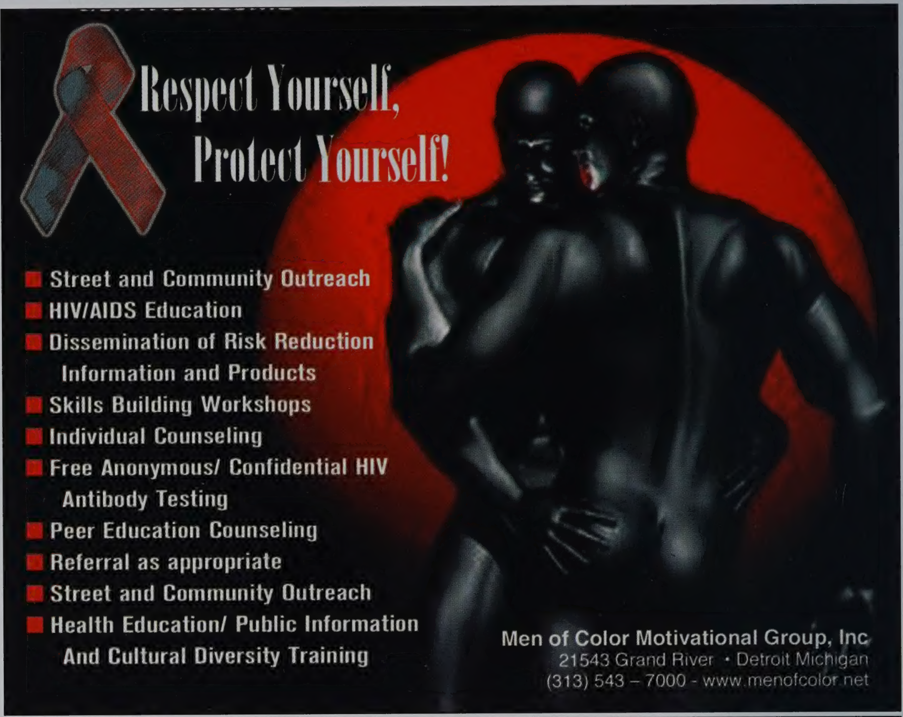

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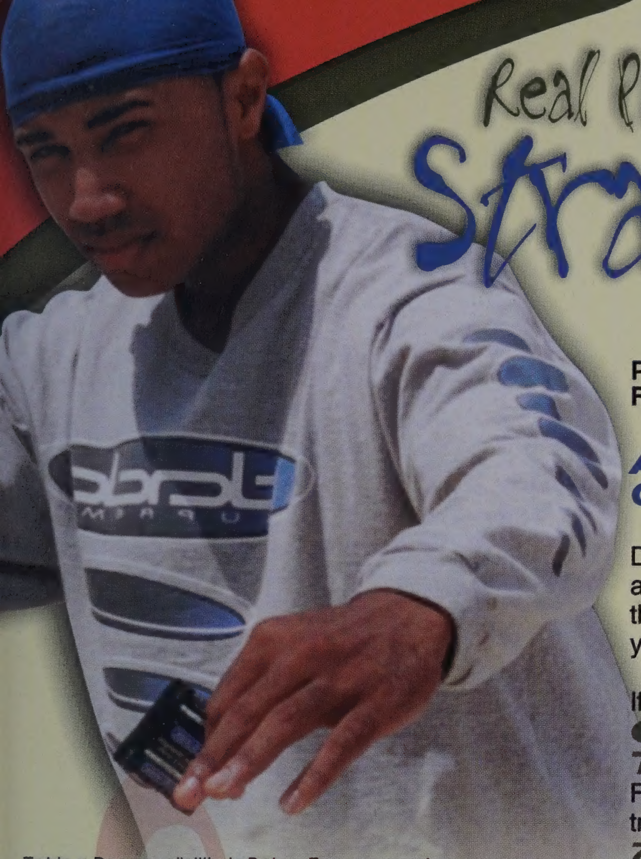

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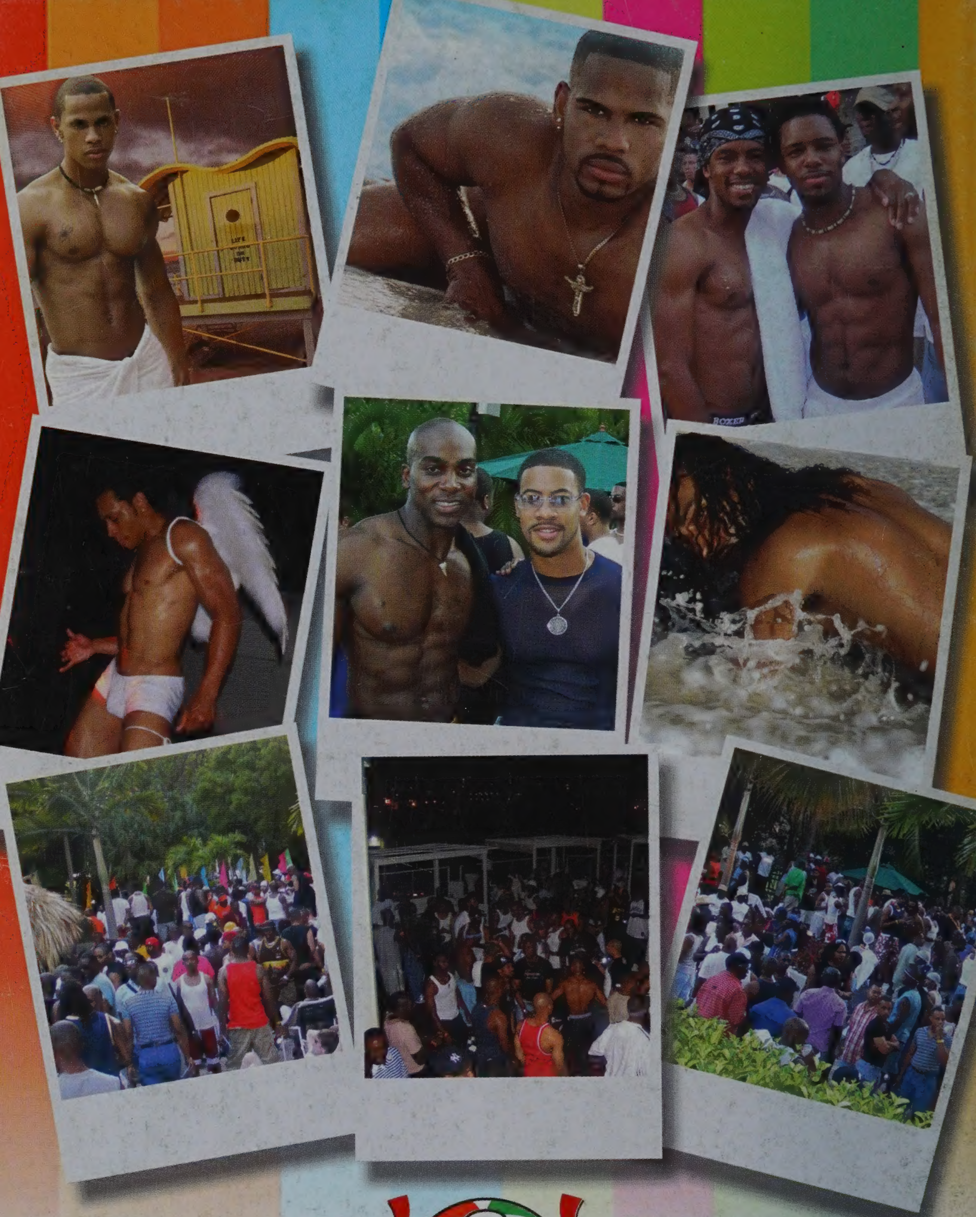

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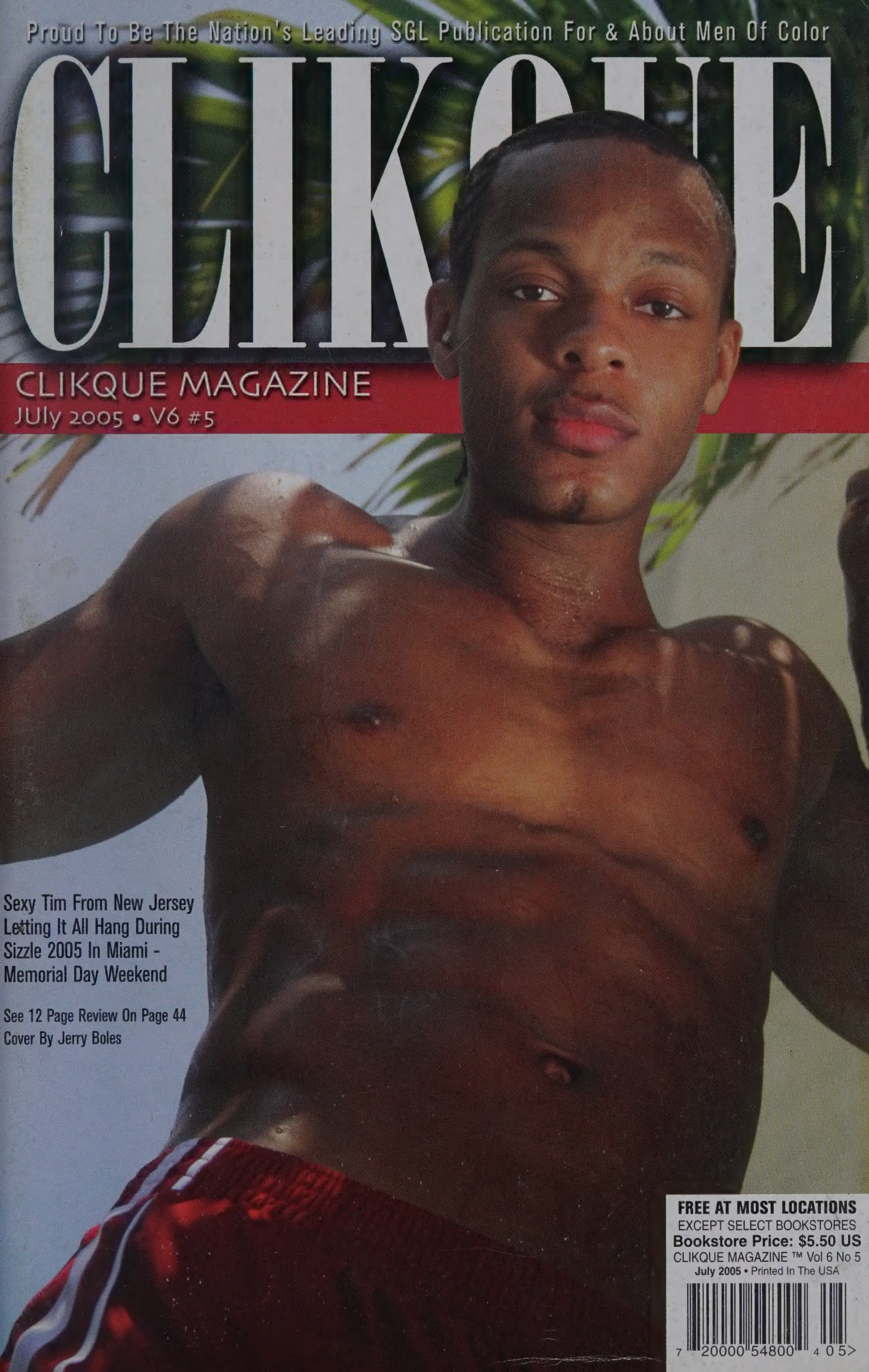

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See 12 Page Review On Page 44
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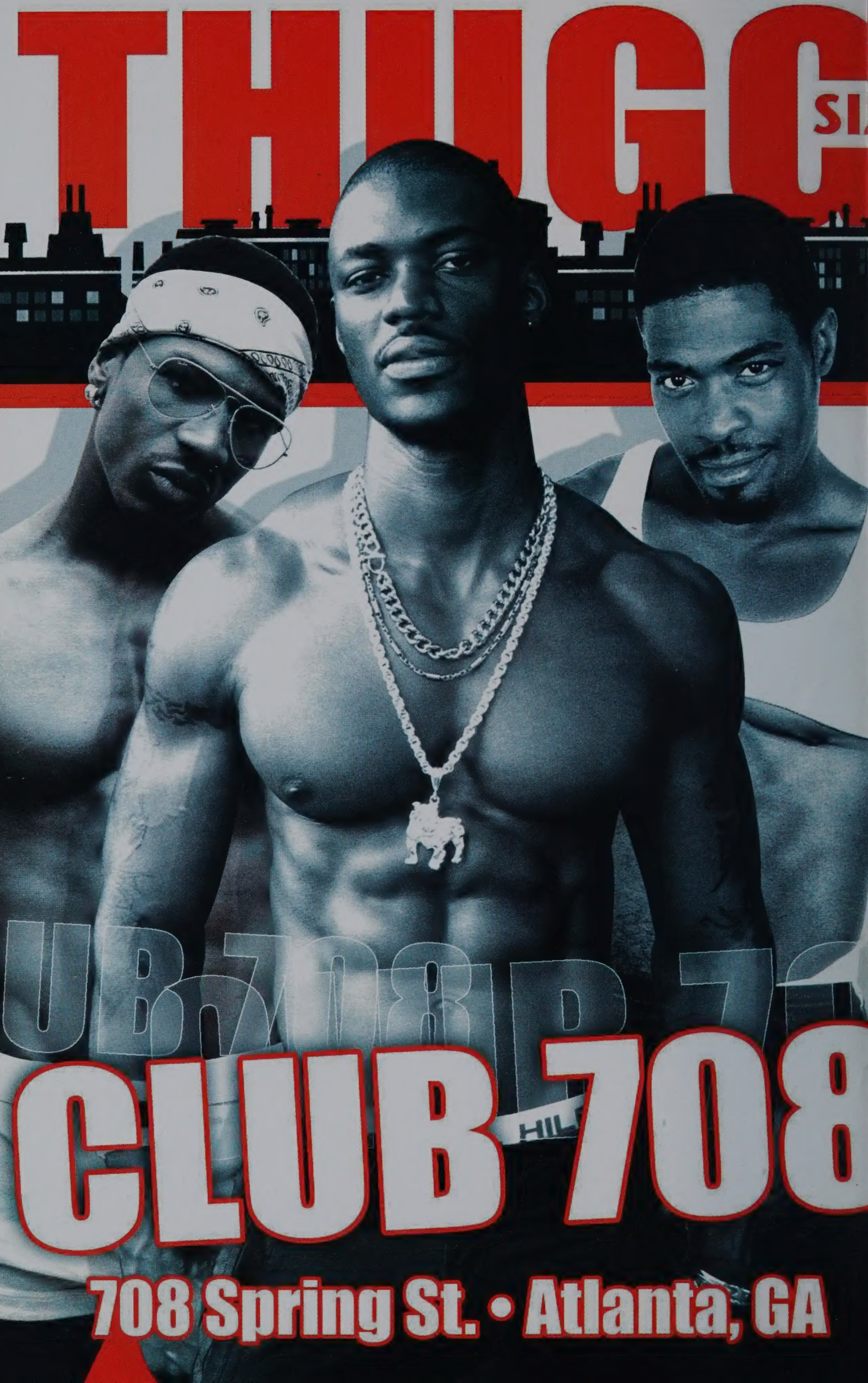
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ED OUT

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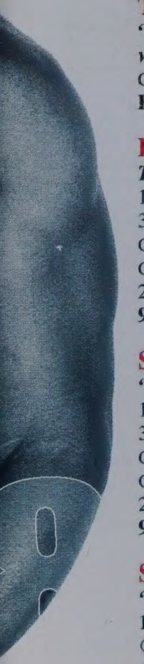

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THURSDAY 9/1

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9pm - 7am

SATURDAY 9/3

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CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SUNDAY 9/4

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Editor in Chief / Publisher **Dwight Powell**
dwight@clikque.com

Sr. Staff Writer **Craig Washington**
Sr. Staff Writer **Scott Bogan**
Art Direction **Dwight Powell**
Production **Clikque Design**
Music Reviews **T-Pro Mix**
Ad Designer **William Young**

CONTRIBUTORS
DYANA BAGBY, MARY ROWLAND
BRUCE A. PETERSON AND JOHN B. GORDON,
DAVID WAHLBERG, HERNDON L. DAVIS,
TUAN N' GAI

FLORIDA OFFICE
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AD SALES/SUBSCRIPTIONS CONTACT
mail@clikque.com

WEBSITE / EMAIL
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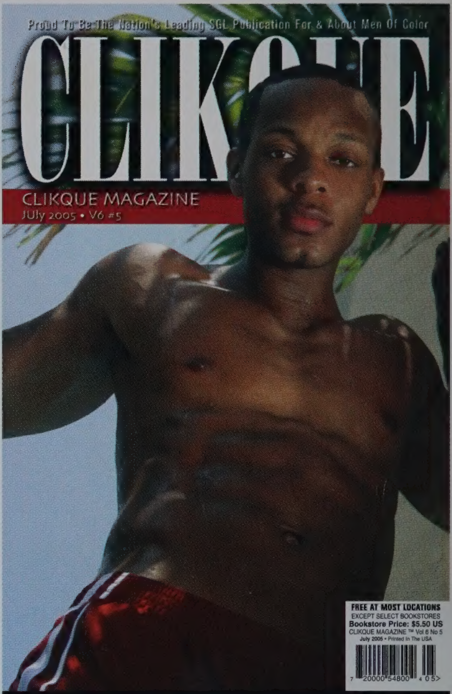
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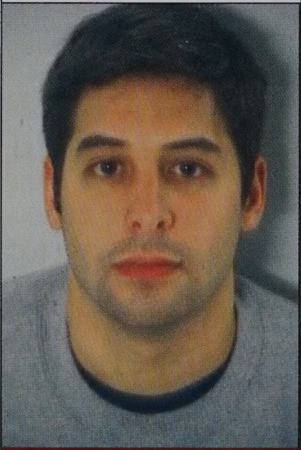
BY DYANA BAGBY

HIV-positive Georgia man jailed until trial Judge revokes bond over additional charges of reckless conduct

An HIV-positive Georgia man facing three felony criminal charges for allegedly engaging in consensual sex with three men without disclosing his HIV status had his bond revoked during a brief hearing.



Gary Wayne Carriker faces three felony charges of reckless conduct for allegedly having consensual sex with three men and not telling them he was HIV-positive.

Gary Wayne Carriker, 26, of Fayetteville was immediately taken into custody after the 30-minute hearing in Fayette County Superior Court. He is to remain jailed until his trial there, which could take place in September. Fayette County is about 30 miles south of Atlanta.

Carriker's attorney, George Sparrow, asked Superior Court Judge Johnnie Caldwell to require Carriker to be abstinent from sex pending the criminal trial rather than be jailed, which would match the terms of his bond in Fulton County, where the other two cases are pending.

Carriker was arrested in November in Fayette County for allegedly having consensual sex with a 25-year-old man between Dec. 10, 2003, and April 30, 2004, before informing the man he was HIV-positive, according to an arrest warrant. Carriker was released from a Fayette County jail on a $5,000 bond, according to court documents.

That man, John Withrow, later filed a civil lawsuit against Carriker, claiming he "suffered extreme and severe emotional distress arising from the fear of developing HIV."

Carriker was arrested in Atlanta on April 18 and again on April 25 on charges of reckless conduct after two men alleged Carriker did not inform them of his HIV status before engaging in sex with them in separate incidents. Carriker was released on $25,000 bond.

Carriker allegedly engaged in consensual oral sex with one of the Atlanta men between Jan. 8 and Jan 25, 2005, according to his May 10 indictment in Fulton County Superior Court. The indictment in Fulton also charges Carriker with having consensual oral and anal sex with a second Atlanta man without disclosing his HIV status between June 1, 2004, and Aug. 31, 2004.

In all three cases, Carriker is charged with violating a 1988 Georgia law that states a person commits a felony if he or she "... knowingly engages in sexual intercourse or performs or submits to any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another person and the HIV infected person does not disclose to the other person the fact of that infected person's being an HIV infected person prior to that intercourse or sexual act."

During Friday's hearing, Carriker was accompanied by his parents. After his bond was revoked, Carriker took a cell phone out of his suit pocket and handed it to his father. Carriker's parents and attorney declined comment after the hearing.

Al Dixon, chief assistant district attorney in Fayette, said Carriker's April 18 arrest in Atlanta violated his bond in Fayette, which led to the hearing on Friday.

But Sparrow said Carriker denies any wrong doing in the Atlanta case.

"This defendant does contest that case," Sparrow said. "He is currently on release on bond from Fulton County and is required to be abstinent, and we propose those same terms here."

Sparrow added that Carriker was undergoing treatment at the Behavioral Medicine Institute of Atlanta, which specializes in the treatment of sexual problems, disruptive behaviors and medical and psychological problems, according to its Web site.

Carriker is on a leave of absence from the Emory University School of Medicine.

During his testimony Friday, Carriker denied having sex with an Atlanta man earlier this year without disclosing his status. Carriker said he was diagnosed as HIV-positive in June 2003.

"Did you tell him before or after your first sexual encounter?" Dixon asked Carriker. "Before," Carriker answered.

Sparrow questioned Det. P.C. Lyons of the Atlanta Police Department and showed her a three-page letter apparently written by the Atlanta man to Carriker dated March 10. Lyons read parts of the letter aloud, including the salutation, "Love."

The writer stated his dates with Carriker were the best he had ever had, Lyons read, and the Midtown man also stated in the letter, "It did not overly concern me when you told me of your status."

A hearing in the case against Carriker in Fulton County is not yet scheduled. The second charge against Carriker involving an Atlanta man and Carriker's April 25 arrest was not discussed during Friday's hearing.

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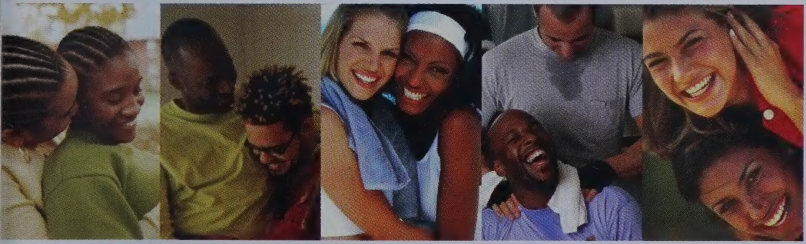

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MONEY / FINANCE

BY MARY ROWLAND

Credit Card

5 steps to credit repair

It's hard work to rebuild your credit rating. But it can be done.

Tens of thousands of Americans have damaged their credit ratings. They've misused or abused their credit cards or prolonged periods of illness or unemployment have engulfed them in financial distress. Whatever the reason, they suffer from bad credit, and must find a way to repair it to return to a normal life.

Create a perfect plan.

If you're among this group, don't despair. It's hard work to rebuild your credit rating, but it can be done.

"First you need to understand how credit works and then you need a plan," says Gerri Detweiler, a credit expert and author of "The Ultimate Credit Handbook."

What do the credit agencies say?

You need to know what the credit-reporting agencies are saying about you. For $8.50, you can order a copy of your credit report online from Equifax. You can also now get your credit score from Equifax and Fair, Isaac & Co. Just visit MSN MoneyCentral's Credit Reporter page. The credit score is a statistical tool designed to measure likelihood you'll pay your bills. For more information on the new service, see "Your secret credit score now available online."

The other two major credit-reporting agencies, Experian (formerly TRW) and TransUnion, charge similar fees. (Use the links below, left to order your report). You're entitled to a free copy of your report, however, if you've recently been denied credit. But you must order the report from the same credit bureau(s) that the lender used in rejecting your application, and you must order it within 30 days of the denial. Review your credit history once a year to check for errors and find out what creditors are saying about you.

Stay away from 'repair' clinics

What you don't need is a credit-repair clinic. These so-called clinics offer to help you clean up your credit by using loopholes in the law that only they know about. They may also promise to remove negative information from your file or to get you a major credit card. These are false promises, according to attorney John Ventura, author of "The Credit Repair Kit."

Some repair clinics may even get you into legal trouble by encouraging you to distort the information in your credit file, or by helping you to initiate a new file with a new address and federal identification number.

There are no special tricks that these credit repair clinics know, experts say. You can clean up your credit report yourself.

Here are five steps to credit repair:

1. Lock your cards away.

Don't close your accounts yet. If your credit rating has been damaged, you may have trouble getting new cards. But stop using them. Your immediate goal is to repair your credit rating and to get out of debt.

2. Figure out where you stand.

No one likes to focus on budgets and net-worth statements. It's particularly painful if you suspect your income is less than your debt and that your net worth is in minus territory. Still, finding out the truth is a necessary first step, just like stepping on the scale before you begin to diet. It helps you measure your success.

You have a great deal of control over your budget and net worth. But much of your credit record is actually controlled by others -- your creditors and the reporting bureaus. Between 30% and 40% of these reports contain errors, Ventura says. Clear those up first.

Ventura suggests that you write to the credit bureau detailing the errors in your report and that you send your correspondence by certified mail with a return receipt requested as you work to clean up your credit report. That will provide you with a paper trail and help you remember when to follow up.

Be as succinct as possible. Don't be angry or accusatory. Provide back-up materials whenever you can. For instance, if you've paid off a bill and received a letter from the former creditor acknowledging that the debt is paid, send along a copy.

In your letter, identify problems such as:

"The credit file your company maintains on me states that my account at Macy's is overdue. In fact, I have closed my account at Macy's and paid off the balance. I am enclosing a letter from Macy's to support that."

Tell the bureau that you want to

have the problem investigated as soon as possible. Ask to have a corrected report sent to anyone who has asked for the report during the past six months for credit purposes and during the past two years for employment purposes.

3. Devise a plan.

If you're going to clear up your credit rating, you must begin paying your bills on time. That means you pay at least the minimum balance on each bill within 30 days. Determine whether you can do that. If you aren't even close, consider credit counseling. If it's hopeless, you may want to consider bankruptcy and a fresh start. Determine which course of action you will take and stick to your guns.

4. Negotiate with creditors.

Nine out of 10 creditors will renegotiate terms with you if you're having trouble paying bills. Good candidates are gasoline companies, utility companies, hospitals and doctors. Gasoline cards are usually not reported to credit bureaus until you're 90 days late, and the others don't generally show up on credit reports unless the bills are sent to a collection agency. Write a letter to these creditors describing your problem and requesting a reduced payment schedule. Then stick to your new schedule.

5. Add pertinent information to your credit file.

Your credit report may be damaged as much by the information that is omitted as by the negative information that is found there. Creditors are not required to report information to a credit bureau. But you are entitled to add information that you feel will help your rating.

The law says you are allowed to write a letter of up to 100 words involving any credit dispute and that the agency must provide to any creditors who ask for information. That might include the details of loans that you paid on schedule, active accounts where you have a good record, salary increases at your job, and information about your mortgage, car loan or the settlements of disputed bills.

Ventura suggests that you write to the bureau, enclosing a copy of your credit report and the information that you would like added to the report. Also include information, such as account numbers, that will allow the credit bureau to verify it.

Negative information can be maintained on your report for seven years; bankruptcies for 10 years. But many creditors weigh new information more heavily.

"How much you pay is not as important as how often you pay," Detweiler says. "It's important to establish a record of paying bills on time and to stick with it."

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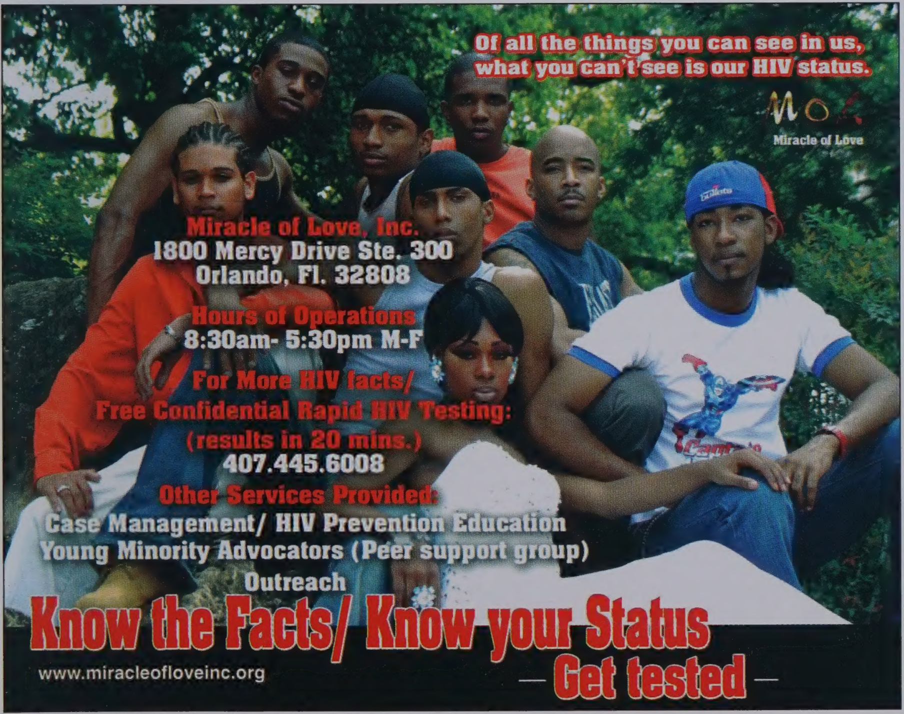

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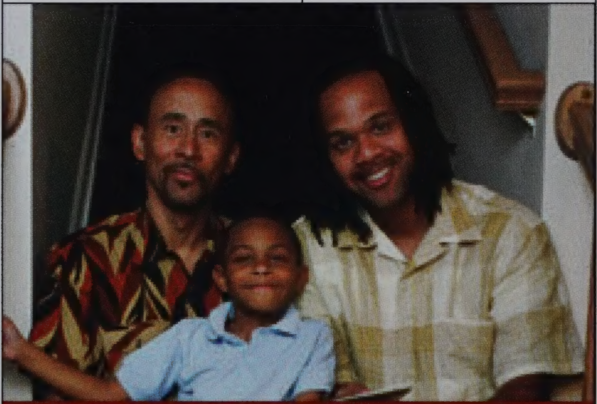
BRUCE A. PETERSON AND JOHN B. GORDON

Single parenting is riskier for kids than gay marriage

Katherine Kersten's June 2 column about heterosexual marriage reflects the deep concern she and many Americans share about what is happening to marriage in our society. She is right to be concerned: Half of all marriages end in divorce and the percentage of adults who are married has been declining for 30 years. The danger in this trend is what it does to kids. Kersten correctly points out that, on average, children with married parents live better lives.



source: National Black Justice Coalition

Kersten sees same-sex marriage as further degrading the 'marriage culture' and sending the wrong message to children: 'offering them a smorgasbord of 'lifestyle options,' and telling them their choices are merely a matter of personal taste.'

The messages we send to our children are important. Nearly every movie, television show, and advertisement glorifies sex and instant gratification instead of long-term commitment. One-third of all births in America are now to single mothers. Could there be a connection? Where we part company with Kersten is on the message that gay marriage would send to children and the effect that gay marriage would have on children. If being raised by a married couple is good for kids -- and it is -- then children of same-sex couples deserve the benefits of marriage as much as any other kids.

And there are lots of them. Despite the fact that marriage is unavailable to gays nearly everywhere in this country, there are gay couples living in more than 99 percent of all counties, and, according to the 2000 census, about 25 percent of same-sex households include children. Estimates of how many children are being raised by gay parents vary widely, but there may be more than 5 million children of lesbian, gay and bisexual parents now living in the United States.

And the evidence is becoming increasingly clear that children raised by two same-sex parents do just as well as those raised by two straight parents.

The more general issue, though, is Kersten's concern about the message that same-sex marriage would convey to other children. The message conveyed by formally recognizing loving, committed partnerships would not be a smorgasbord of options, but a recommendation for the single healthiest entree -- sexual partnerships ought to be formalized and permanent. In particular, parents, gay or straight, ought to be married.

At last, a strong counter to the media trash. Without same-sex marriage we are likely to see more and more parents openly living together without marriage. That surely conveys the wrong message.

Kersten says: 'The agenda of traditional-marriage proponents is not negative -- fear or hatred of homosexuals.' Our experience teaching this subject suggests that opposition to gay marriage really is often grounded in moral disapproval of homosexuality. That changes the debate but does not end it, because those deeply opposed on religious grounds to homosexuality -- and therefore same-sex marriage -- need to have their concerns respected.

Since marriage has such strong religious and moral connotations to so many people, it may be that the only way out of this debate is for the government to get out of the marriage business altogether. Sanctification of marriages on religious grounds could continue to be reserved for churches, synagogues and mosques to offer to whomever they choose. As a civil society, though, we could all get behind any couple who is willing to do the hard work of long-term commitment. The government could designate such couples 'permanent partners' and offer the state's strong financial and legal incentives to all couples willing to make a permanent public commitment.

This is scary stuff. Change always is. But whatever we decide about gay marriage, let's agree on what's really putting kids at risk -- single parenting -- and cheer for commitment wherever we find it.

Bruce Peterson is a Hennepin County judge. John Gordon is a Minneapolis lawyer. They teach a seminar in Law and Social Policy at the University of St. Thomas Law School.

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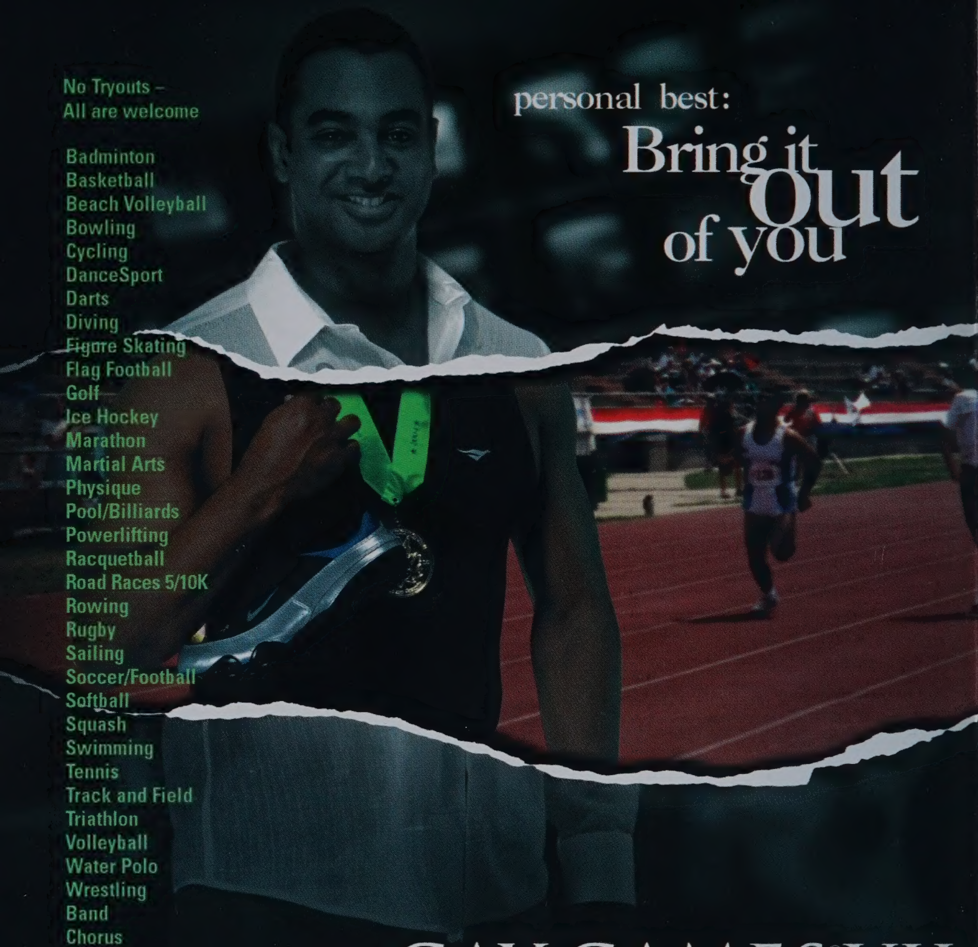
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BY EARTHA MELZER

82 percent of Fortune 500 now has gay protections

More companies adopt gay, trans-friendly workplace policies

Gay and lesbian equality advanced in the workplaces of corporate America last year, according to the annual "State of the Workplace" report released by the Human Rights Campaign last week.

A total of 17 Fortune 500 companies added domestic partner health benefits in 2004, an increase of 9 percent over the number of companies offering the benefits the year before. Thirteen additional companies announced that they would begin offering domestic partner health benefits in 2005.

Among Fortune 500 companies, 410, or 82 percent, now include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies. Of the largest companies, the Fortune 50, only ExxonMobil does not include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policies.

"Fair-minded policies help recruit and retain the best talent while improving productivity by ensuring that all of their employees can provide for their families," HRC President Joe Solmonese said.

In 2004, 51 of the Fortune 500 companies included gender identity in their non-discrimination policies, up 89 percent from 2003 when only 27 Fortune 500 companies had the policy.

Since 2002, the HRC Corporate Equality Index has been tracking spousal equivalency benefits in an annual survey of Fortune 500 companies. The Equality Index looks at 10 criteria including medical insurance, family and medical leave, life insurance and retirement benefits.

This year, 83 of the Fortune 500 companies offer all the spousal equivalency benefits tracked by the Equality Index.

Top companies have top records

According to the report, the more successful the corporation, the more likely it is to offer benefits to gay and lesbian employees. While 46 percent of the Fortune 500 companies provide domestic partner benefits, 76 percent of the Fortune 50 do.

Among colleges and universities, 74 percent of the 50 top national four-year colleges (as ranked by U.S. News & World Report) provided domestic partnership coverage.

Of companies that offer DP benefits, 95 percent offer them to heterosexual as well as gay employees. HRC said that this is due in part to equal benefit ordinances that require entities doing business with government entities to offer benefits equally.

Margaret Stumpp underwent a male-to-female gender transition while working as a senior vice president of investment management for Prudential Financial.

Stumpp said that her company was supportive as she underwent the transition and that her clients were more concerned with her investment performance that with her performance.

"In my three years since my transition, business has never been better. I have met with corporate boards, chief executives, clients around the globe. My organization has taken in roughly $3 billion in new deposits from institutional investors this year alone. Had I been fired, the firm would have potentially lost millions in profits."

DP benefits survive marriage bans

State constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage passed in 13 states last year, the HRC reported, and though the marriage amendments in Michigan and in Ohio have been interpreted to restrict public institutions from offering DP benefits, none of the amendments has been interpreted to mean that private companies can't offer benefits.

Margaret Stumpp, a senior vice president at Prudential Financial, said she appreciated the support of her company during her transition from male to female identity. According to HRC, in the past 15 months the number of Fortune 500 companies that include gender identity in their non-discrimination policies has doubled.

There is no federal legislation that protects workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation, and 34 states do not offer protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. In this climate, the HRC said, corporations that offer equal benefits to gays play a critical role in the well being of gay workers.

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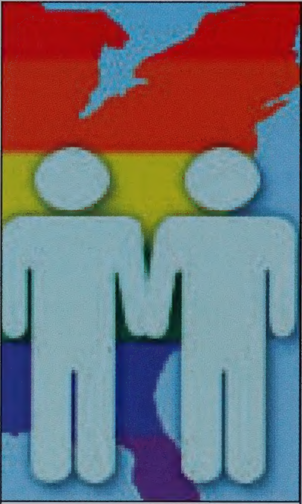
DAVID WAHLBERG



CDC targets HIV in blacks

National conference in Atlanta focuses on epidemic among African-American men.

It's half past midnight, and hip-hop pulses through 836, a Midtown Atlanta nightclub where hundreds of black men dance, drink and check one another out.

Muscular men, many in tight tank tops, some wearing baseball caps, a few with pants hung low, saunter by Ronnie Bass. With his white T-shirt, baggy jeans and Yankees hat cocked to one side, Bass blends in.

But he has something many of these men don't: condoms. He has bowls of them, along with safer-sex brochures, a video about negotiating intimate discussions and kits to test for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Bass hands condoms to the men passing by, stopping to talk to one. "I want you to see our intervention," he says, in a flirting tone.

"All right!" the man replies. "I need some intervention, baby!"

Bass, executive director of the AIDS organization Someone Cares, is trying to limit HIV in the population with the highest known infection rate in the country: young black men who have sex with other men, many of whom don't identify themselves as gay.

It's a community that is a major focus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2005 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, which started Sunday and runs through Wednesday.

HIV, first reported 24 years ago, may be on the rise again in the United States, especially among gay men, after steady declines in AIDS rates during the 1990s, according to the CDC. About 1 million Americans have HIV or AIDS, one-fourth of whom don't know it, with roughly 40,000 new infections every year, the CDC says.

In recent years, the epidemic has taken on more of a black identity. African-Americans, who make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, account for more than half of new HIV and AIDS cases.

Among white gay men --- still a high-risk group --- researchers say that methamphetamine, Internet chat rooms and a disregard for condoms after years of "AIDS fatigue" are fueling an HIV surge.

In black men who have sex with men, the picture is less clear, in part because such men were less studied until recently. But the black community and public health officials have increasingly focused on the disproportionate rate of HIV among blacks --- especially black women, who are 19 times more likely to be infected than white women. The vast majority of black women who get HIV get it from sex with men. The biggest risk factor for black men is unsafe sex with other men.

"In the past five years, the evidence has accumulated to emphasize the importance of this population," said Richard Wolitski, acting chief of prevention research at the CDC's HIV center. "We need to do as much as we can to reduce their HIV risk."

Some bisexual black men serve as a "bridge" for spreading HIV to black women, researchers say. A study in North Carolina last year found rising HIV infections among black male college students, most of whom said they had sex with men and many also with women.

Posing as straight

A CDC study four years ago in seven cities of men ages 23-29 who had sex with men revealed alarming statistics: 32 percent of the black men tested positive for HIV, compared with 14 percent of Hispanic men and 7 percent of white men. "That's approaching Botswana's level of infection," Dr. David Satcher, then the U.S. surgeon general, said of the black rate.

Books such as one last year by J.L. King, a married black man who wrote about his affairs with men, have brought a slang term for a long-occurring behavior out of the closet: being on the "down low," or concealing sex with other men behind a straight identity, largely because many African-Americans are anti-gay.

It's unclear whether men on the "down low" use condoms less than other men. But researchers are starting to ask that question, among others.

Lawrence Bryant of the Morehouse School of Medicine interviewed black men in Atlanta who have sex with men and found that fewer than one-third identified themselves as gay. That may be because some influential black churches discourage frank talk of homosexuality, he said.

"You're silently accepted as long as you don't say anything," Bryant said. "The minute you come out, it's a totally different picture."

John Peterson, a psychology professor at Georgia State University,

CDC CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

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CDC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

has studied HIV among black homosexual and bisexual men since the 1980s, perhaps longer than anyone else.

Peterson recently set out to learn why black men who have sex with men have higher rates of HIV than other men, even though they report similar rates of condom use. He enrolled 95 young black Atlanta men in a study, then asked them to invite other men with whom they had had sex or close friendships; 63 joined. Peterson found that the men in the secondary network used condoms less than those originally in the study. That, combined with an already high prevalence of HIV, puts all black men who have sex with men at greater risk, he said.

Peterson said efforts to study and combat HIV in black men have increased significantly in recent years. But "is it enough to address the magnitude of the problem? No way," he said. "The cost of not doing enough is continuing to see death, disease and lost productivity of black men in the prime of their lives."

Defusing a plague

Several efforts in Atlanta, some funded by the CDC, aim to defuse the epidemic in black men and the black community in general.

At Morehouse, Bryant plans group discussions about sex and HIV for black men and women, patterned after recent sessions for women only.

AID Atlanta, based in Midtown, offers six weekly "Deeper Love" workshops for black gay men to discuss self-esteem, dual identity and other issues. The program also runs a weekend retreat at Red Top Mountain State Park.

The AIDS Survival Project recruits black men via the Internet for informal, in-person chats, dubbed "Brothaz Unplugged."

Our Common Welfare, an agency south of Decatur, serves people with HIV and substance abuse, the vast majority of them black men. The agency coaches them on how to disclose their HIV status to others --- and prevent passing the virus.

Bass, of Someone Cares, based in Smyrna, goes to streets known to attract prostitutes and to the parking lots of "adult" bookstores. He hands out "safer sex" kits, containing condoms, lubricant and cards bearing phone numbers for HIV information and testing.

But Bass spends much of his time in bars: Tower II, east of downtown, and 836, the name given to Midtown's Armory on Saturdays, when it becomes almost exclusively black.

"We're a spinoff of the DL [down-low] scene," said manager Mario Harris II. "It's not straight; it's not gay. It's men who like men."

On a recent night at 836, Bass and a few volunteers stood in the corner of a patio, handing out condoms and HIV brochures while men danced to the music of Snoop Dogg, Lumidee, Bobby Valentino and other hip-hop and rhythm-and-blues artists. Bass played a video about lovers negotiating condom use --- his "intervention," in public health parlance. He also displayed a sign offering free HIV testing.

A man approached and asked for a test. He told Bass he had had unprotected sex with other men. Bass told him that abstinence is the only sure way to remain free of HIV but that using condoms helps a lot.

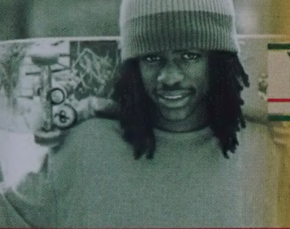
Bass donned latex gloves and pricked the man's index finger, drawing a drop of blood that he placed into a vial.

Twenty minutes later, the man returned. His test was negative. So was that of a second man tested that night. Testing and safer-sex messages remain two key public health tools to stem HIV, but many black men never get either, Bass said.

"You can't sit back in some office and expect people to walk in," he said. "You have to go to where they are."

AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND HIV

Black men are seven times more likely to have HIV than white men. Their biggest risk factor is unsafe sex with other men. Black women are 19 times more likely to be infected than white women; the vast majority get the virus through unsafe sex with men. Health officials say that some bisexual black men serve as a "bridge" for HIV. Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but account for 51 percent of cases of HIV/AIDS.



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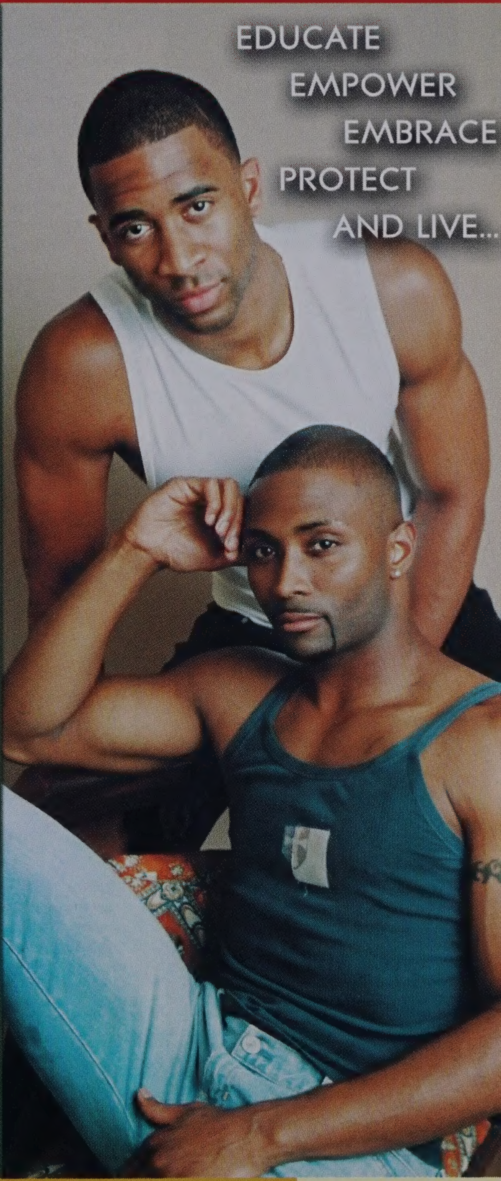

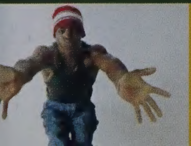

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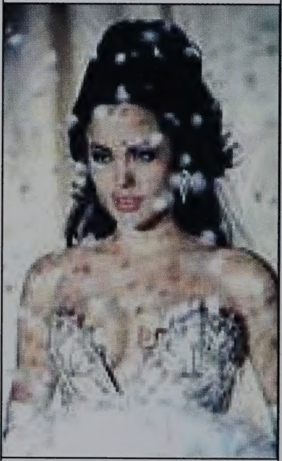
AIDS Dramas

With the century that introduced AIDS to the world drawn to a close, we can take comfort in knowing that the cure for this devastating disease will be discovered in the next millennium, and we can hope to see it happen in our lifetime. Here are a number of films that may help us to view the disease -- and the people living with HIV and AIDS -- in a new light.

Gia:

The Tragic Story of a Supermodel. Feisty and openly gay, Gia was a breath of fresh air in the fashion world of her day; sadly, she was also one of the first women to succumb to AIDS.



And the Band Played On

HBO's adaptation of Randy Shilts's landmark book gives a powerful and angry account of the early days of AIDS research -- or lack thereof. Starring Richard Gere, Lily Tomlin, and a who's who of socially-conscious Hollywood luminaries.

The Living End

Two fatalistic LA. boys -- one's an impulsive, on-the-edge psycho cutie; the other listens to The Smiths a lot, and likes Godard movies -- discover they're HIV positive and set about on an unplanned, unhinged serio-comic spree of violence and abandon.

Parting Glances

Charting 24 hours before two handsome young NYC lovers part, the film has a sweet tenor somewhat compromised by the fact that its yuppie protagonists are far less interesting than one subsidary role: Steve Buscemi's marvelous, antic PWA/artist best-friend.

Rock the Boat

An inspiring and surprisingly exciting documentary following an all-gay, all-HIV-positive crew of amateur yachtsmen competing in the gruelling Trans-Pacific yacht race.

Silverlake Life: The View from Here

This groundbreaking documentary about the lives of a gay couple facing the reality of living with AIDS won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival.

Together Alone

Two men who have just had unprotected sex develop an intimacy as they discuss everything from AIDS to mis-matched socks. Winner of the 1995 San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival Audience Award for Best Feature.

Via Appia

Frank is content with having casual sex with boys he meets on his travels around the world -- until one of his conquests leaves him with the stark farewell, 'Welcome to the AIDS club.'

Voices from the Front

This powerful film, the first feature-length documentary to comprehensively cover the AIDS activist movement in America, makes clear the emotional and political effects of community activism using the voices of those directly engaged.

Zero Patience

John Greyson's Zero Patience is an AIDS musical that is to Hollywood AIDS stories like Philadelphia what Peter Duesberg is to the CDC: an annoyance. Stubbornly agnostic, beautifully sentimental, this film manages to turn almost every AIDS paradigm on its head.

Real Playas Always Strap It

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HIV INFECTION

ALWAYS USE A CONDOM!

Do you know your status, and if you do, are you getting the Care & Treatment you need?

If you don't know your status, ***GET TESTED TODAY!***
For information on prevention, treatment and care call ***786-318-2337***

Taking Responsibility Is Being Empowered

The goal of The TRIBE HIV Prevention Program at Empower "U" is to decrease the risk of HIV transmission among young African-American MSMs. We work towards increasing knowledge and awareness about HIV, increasing HIV testing among young black MSMs, and facilitating HIV risk reduction skills development and decision making.

Programs & Services*

HIV/AIDS Services & Treatment ■ Free HIV Testing & Counseling ■ Housing
Food ■ Free Medical Treatment ■ Individual & Group Counseling
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(* Services are free to clients that meet minimum eligibility)

TRIBE
a program of Empower "U", Inc.

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Visit Us Online At:
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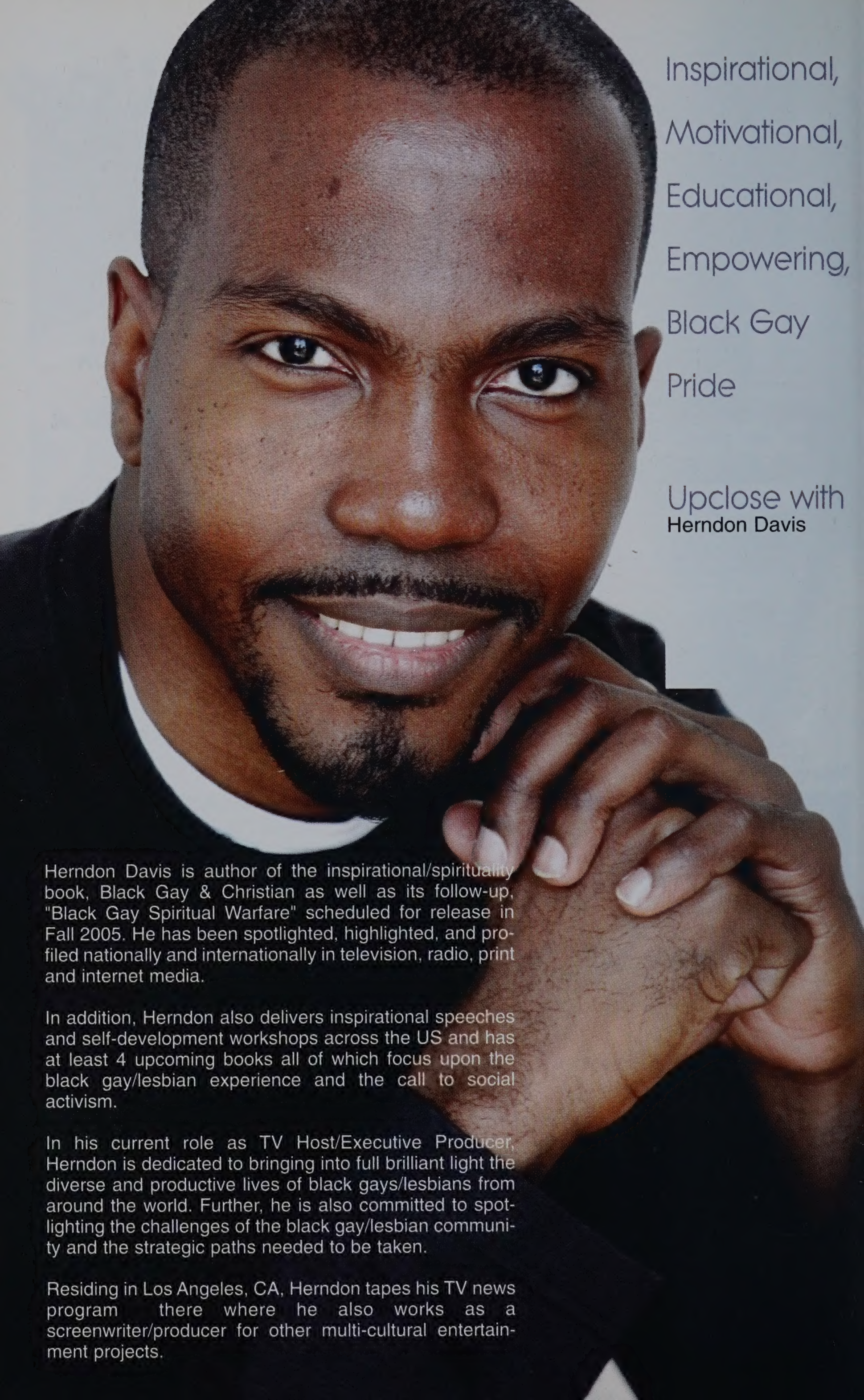

Inspirational,
Motivational,
Educational,
Empowering,
Black Gay
Pride

Upclose with
Herndon Davis

Herndon Davis is author of the inspirational/spirituality book, Black Gay & Christian as well as its follow-up, "Black Gay Spiritual Warfare" scheduled for release in Fall 2005. He has been spotlighted, highlighted, and profiled nationally and internationally in television, radio, print and internet media.

In addition, Herndon also delivers inspirational speeches and self-development workshops across the US and has at least 4 upcoming books all of which focus upon the black gay/lesbian experience and the call to social activism.

In his current role as TV Host/Executive Producer, Herndon is dedicated to bringing into full brilliant light the diverse and productive lives of black gays/lesbians from around the world. Further, he is also committed to spotlighting the challenges of the black gay/lesbian community and the strategic paths needed to be taken.

Residing in Los Angeles, CA, Herndon tapes his TV news program there where he also works as a screenwriter/producer for other multi-cultural entertainment projects.

BY: HERNDON L DAVIS

SPIRITUAL Orgasm:

Praise and Worship after Lovemaking

This is part 3 and the final installment of series of essays dealing with the vibrant intersection of spirituality and sexuality within the black gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving community. The series mission is to provide a guideline on how to seek out healthy romantic, same-gender-loving relationships under the spiritual guidance and direction of God. It runs as follows: 1. Spiritual Romance: An Adam and Steve Love Story (May 2005) 2. Spiritual Sex: Can you Make Love to Gospel Music? (June 2005) 3. Spiritual Orgasm: Praise and Worship after Lovemaking (July 2005)

As a same-gender-loving man or woman, after you,ve just had mind-blowing, intense lovemaking, can you now pray on your knees in front of your partner? Can you read your bible immediately afterwards? Can you preach, teach or sing Amazing Grace right after your orgasm? Or do you need time to distance your sex from your praise and worship?

When the orgasms have come and gone, do you immediately jump into the shower to wash away your lover,s juices and scents, or can you further spiritually connect with him/her in your nakedness by sharing your deepest spiritual thoughts and testifying to God,s grace and glory?

Can the two of you conduct a bible study afterwards? Can you share your love for God just as you,ve shared your love for each other? And can you develop and share a spiritual orgasm together, which is your heightened mutual love for God as expressed through your spiritual relationship and growth with the Father/ Mother/Universe.

Further, can you praise your Creator publicly with your same-gender-loving partner? Do you feel comfortable attending church service sitting next to your partner and praising the same God who just witnessed your frolicking, foreplay and intimate lovemaking just a couple of hours earlier?

Or is your sex separated from your praise and worship where you can easily share an orgasm, but never your love, praise, and worship of God? If this describes you, then please ask yourself why?

If you are indeed engaged in a spiritual romance, engaging in spiritual sex, then why not have the spiritual orgasm that goes along with it? Why not reach the level where both of you achieve the physical and spiritual peak where you,re carried off into a heightened sense of awareness and conciseness in God.

Remember sex isn,t just a physical act, it,s a spiritual one as well. When we focus solely on the physical we miss out on the rest of the joy and rewards that God has created for us. That is why so many of us experience emptiness and loneliness after the orgasm has passed. That is why so many of us are able to have multiple sex partners with little conscience or regard because the person we,re with is merely a warm body, just for the moment to fulfill a carnal or fleshly need.

When we regard sex in such disposable terms and not within the spiritual and loving context in which God created and intended it to be, we become lost souls, searching for love in all the wrong places and for spiritual growth everywhere but within ourselves.

We can never reach our pinnacle if we,re still stuck in the mud of our current existence. We can never grow spiritually as gay/lesbian, same-gen-

ORGASM CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

BY: HERNDON L DAVIS

ORGASMA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

der-loving men and women if we still think God doesn,t love or accept us or our sexual relationships and practices.

Our spiritual orgasm is truly meant to be continuous, multiple, and more intense as we grow older. Our spiritual orgasm is a state of being of acceptance, study, growth, and joy of living. Our spiritual orgasm transcends the bedroom and transcends the church. It transcends the bible and pastor/bishop,s sermons and all the trappings of earthly church worship.

Spiritual orgasm is a never-ending relationship between you and God that continues into the after-life and beyond. It is an infinite splendor of brilliance, spiritual connectivity, and universal wholeness that comes simply through your willingness to grow into the stream of life that God has provided for you.

If you cannot share any of this with the one you just got your freak-on, then why do it? If your current romantic relationship has no spiritual depth, then why stay in it? Relationships are a ying-yang, push-pull, partnering existence. If you,re not benefiting from it and vice versa, then are you spiritually yoked enough for your relationship to thrive 5 years from now or 45 years from now??

Contrary to popular belief, same-gender-loving relationships, can work and they do work. They can thrive and they do thrive. They can be ordained by God, and they are ordained by God. If you place love as your center and if God is the epicenter of the center of your love, then your relationship is ordained.

Finally, it has been my hope, my wish, but most of all it has been my prayer that each of you can and will reach this pinnacle of spiritual romance, sex, and orgasm. It is not an abstract, pie-in-the sky construct, but instead it is a God driven and ordained reality for many gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving couples.

Always remember there is absolutely no limit in God or in what we can do in God.

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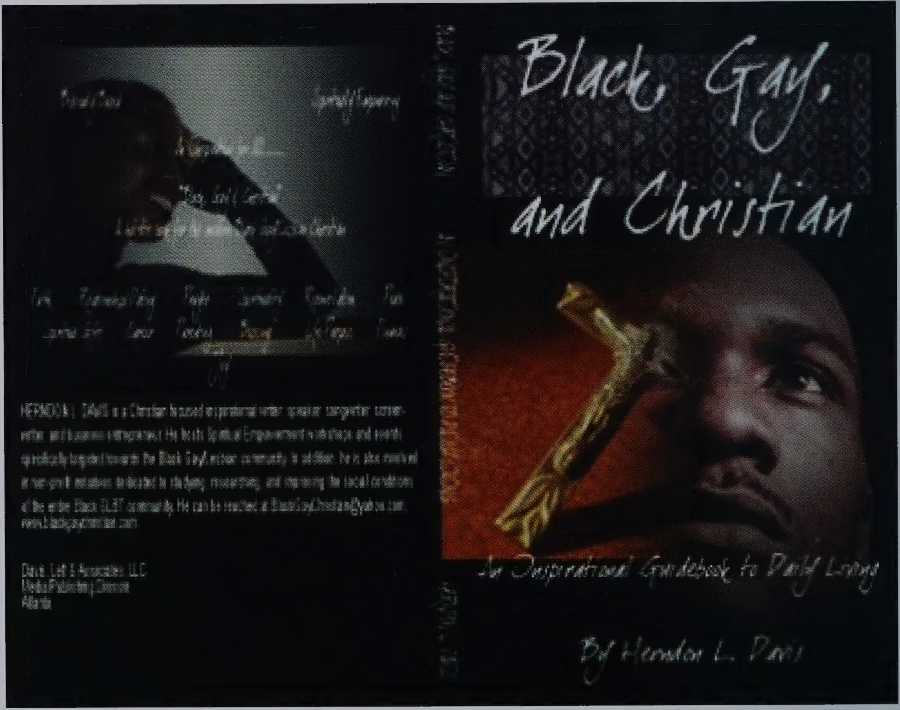
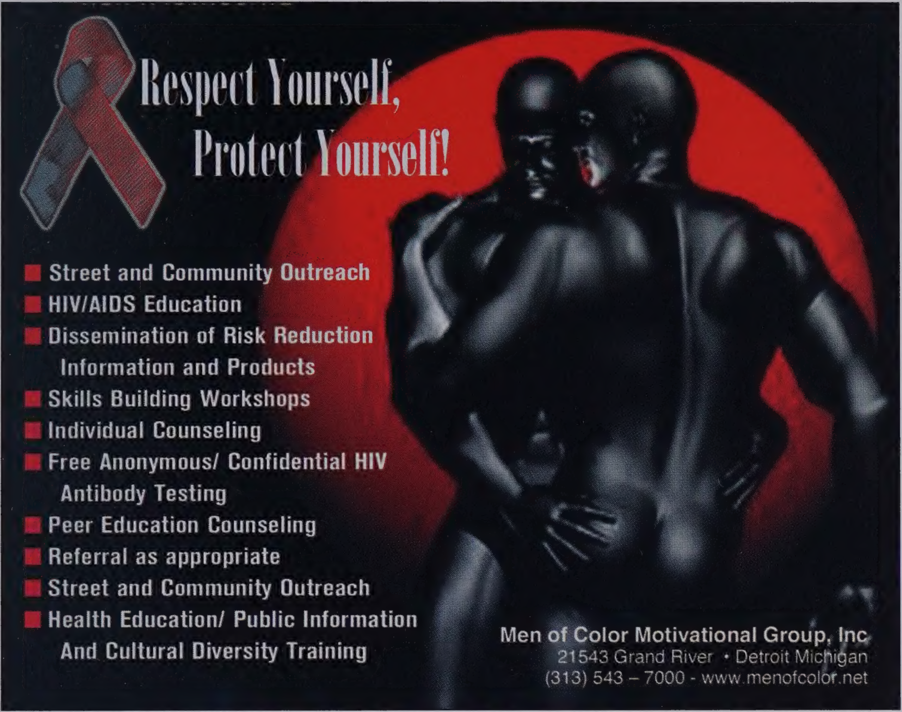


Black, Gay, and Christian
An Inspirational Guidebook to Daily Living
By Herndon L. Davis

A D V E R T I S E M E N T



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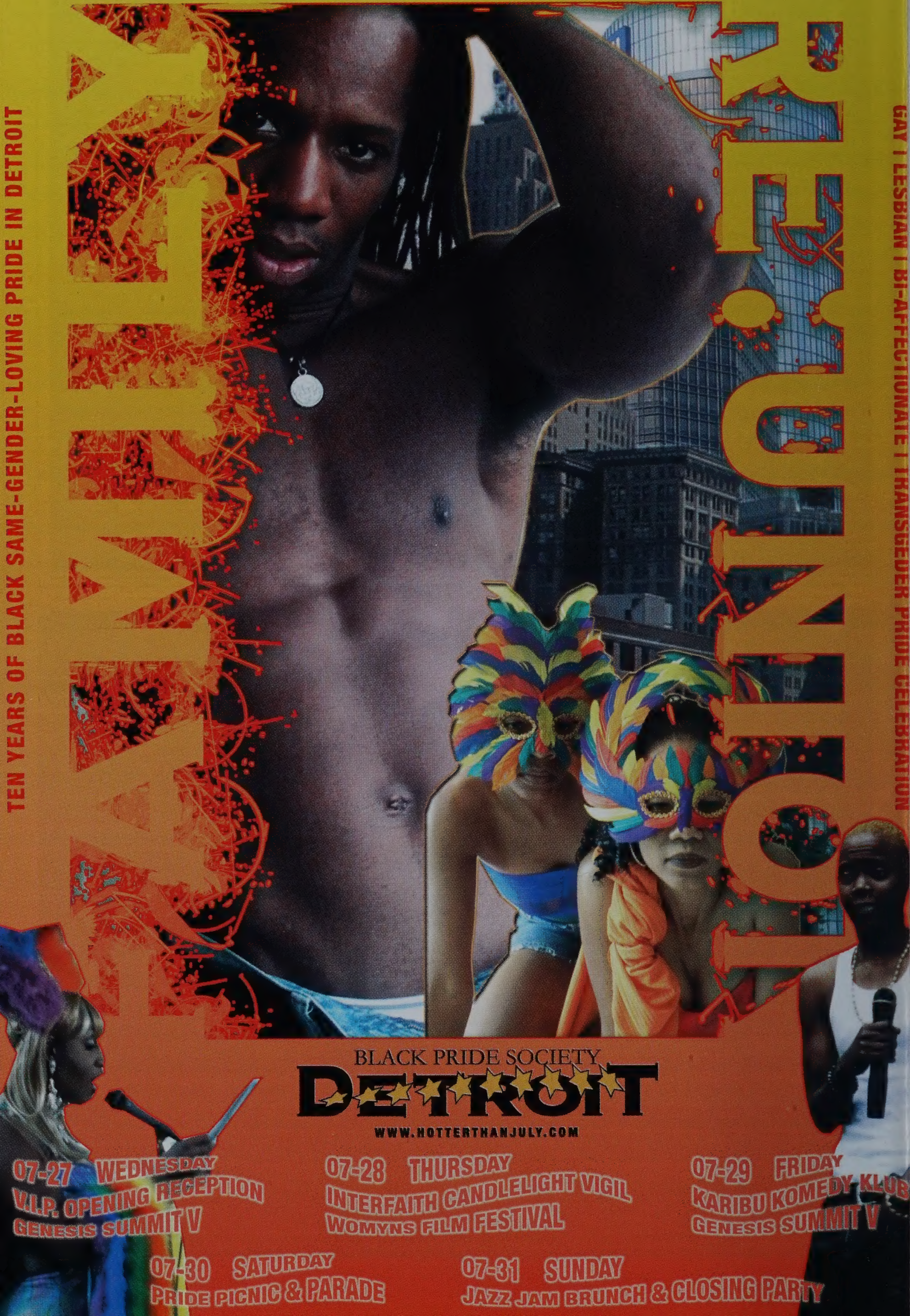

TEN YEARS OF BLACK SAME-GENDER-LOVING PRIDE IN DETROIT

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DETROIT

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V.I.P. OPENING RECEPTION
GENESIS SUMMIT V

07-28 THURSDAY
INTERFAITH CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
WOMYNS FILM FESTIVAL

07-29 FRIDAY
KARIBU KOMEDY KLUB
GENESIS SUMMIT V

07-30 SATURDAY
PRIDE PICNIC & PARADE

07-31 SUNDAY
JAZZ JAM BRUNCH & CLOSING PARTY

About DBGPride Inc.

Detroit Black Gay Pride Inc. (DBGPride Inc.) is a grass-roots, non-profit organization dedicated to efforts that nurture pride in our community. We do this by keeping a focus on positive and collective works that celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity.

It is through the efforts of generous volunteers, dedicated community leaders, friends, family and allies, that we are provided the privilege of producing what has become a historic black gay pride celebration in our community, Detroit's Hotter Than July.

Detroit's Hotter Than July is a grass-roots social project founded in the core principles of Kwanzaa. It serves as a year round effort promoting collective works to nurture a healthy community through economics, spirituality, networking, education and culture.

We are proud to be the stewards of the Midwest's oldest black lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate and transgender pride celebration. We are also proud to have our efforts serve as a model for other prides across the United States.

DBGPride Inc. is a Charter Member of the International Federation of Black Prides (IFBPrides), representing more than twenty-five black pride L-G-B-T celebrations across North America and South Africa.

History

For many summers preceding 1996, Detroit's population of black lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate, and transgender citizens celebrated at the end of each July around annual social gatherings produced by the Billionaire Boys' Club (B.B.C.), Men of Color Motivational Group (M.O.C.) and Ladies of a Current Affair. During this time many Detroiters were also taking annual pilgrimages to Washington D.C. where black pride celebrations originated. The cross polination around these events planted the seed for establishing a community-focused, grass-roots, black pride celebration based in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1995, M.O.C. initiated the ground work, planting the seeds for what would eventualy serve as the foundation in which pride was launched as a community wide event. Community organizers, business leaders, advocates and allies made a commitment to work collectively to set forth on an ambitious mission establishing what is now known as Detroit's Hotter Than July.

In 1996 Detroit celebrated it's first black pride with the official support of the Baldwin Parker Society, Billionaire Boys' Club, A. Lorde Collective, Kick Publishing Co., Men Of Color Motivational Group, Project Survival, Ladies of A Current Affair and Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church.

Since 1996, Detroit's Hotter Than July has grown into one the most significant black pride celebrations in North America. Currently, Detroit is host to the oldest black pride in the Midwest's. We also serve as proud charter members of the InternationalFederation of Black Prides (IFBPrides) which represents over twenty-four black prides across the continent, including Johanesburg, South Africa and Toronto, Canada.

Today, Detroit's Hotter Than July is produced by Detroit Black Gay Pride Inc. (DBGPride Inc.). Members on the board are selected from participating community based organizations, businesses and leaders within our local community.

In pride, our community grows through collective works, initiated to produce a celebration that nurtures our identity and culture. Through pride we practice the kwanza principle of "Ujima" to empower all lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate and transgender people of african descent in Detroit and beyond.

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Wednesday, July 27th

■■■ Time: 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Opening V.I.P. Reception

Join us as we celebrate the historic tenth celebration of Detroit's black same-gender-loving (S-G-L) pride celebration, Detroit's Hotter Than July. Featuring entertainment, music by DJ Dre' of Soundcircle Collective, light refreshments, art exhibition and community networking.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn @ Harmonie Park, 351 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48226

Thursday, July 28th

■■■ Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
GENESIS CONFERENCE VI
Brothers Saving Brothers 1.0
Facilitators: Amani Hall and Anthony Kilgore

Part 1: "Dying Before Their Time" Seniors In Detroit
Facilitators: Facilitators/Presenters: Jennifer Martin, Walter & May Reuther Senior Services, a division of Matrix Human Services

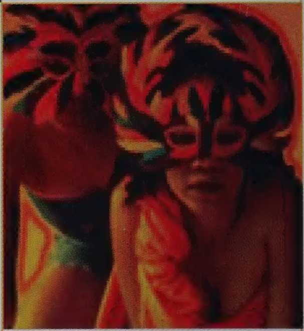
Part 2: Legal Issues For Same Sex Couples - Durable Powers of Attorneys, Wills, etc.
Facilitator: Katy Graham, Elder Law Center, Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 351 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48226 (in Harmonie Park btwn Greektown & Ford Field)

■■■ Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Interfaith Candlelight Vigil
Each year Detroit's Hotter Than July is officially opened with a special ceremony to pay tribute to those in our community who have made there transition due to AIDS/HIV and breast cancer at the Blue Spruce Memorial in Palmer Park. Everyone welcomed.

Location: Palmer Park @ Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Detroit, MI

■■■ Time: 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.
HTJ2005 Womyn's Film Festival



Featuring films by GBF's Stephanie Wynne with a special feature starring MC Lyte in 'A Luv's Tale'. Event hosted by Spanish Fly Entertainment.

Location: Club Palladium, 711 E. McNichols, Detroit, MI

■■■ Time: 10:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.
SIZZLIN' SKATE JAM
Sponsored by Men Empowered. Featuring dance music by local house DJ's, entertaiment and dance until dawn.

Location: Detroit Roller Wheels , 16611 Schoolcraft Rd, Detroit, MI, (313) 837-7680. For additional information contact via (313) 585-8791 or via email.
Cost: $7.00 Advance / $10.00 Door

■■■ Time: 10:00 P.M. - Until
HTJ!2005 Official Afterhours @ Club Inuendo

Sponsored by Club Inuendo. Featuring dance music by local house DJ's, entertaiment and dance until dawn.
Cost: $10.00

Friday, July 29th

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
GENESIS CONFERENCE VI
The (True) Family values Auction: Queer Folk Reclaiming Parenting from the Religiously Wrong
Facilitators: Dr. Staci Hirsch, Psy.D., co-founder of Identity Solutions

Looks are Deceiving (Gay Labeling)

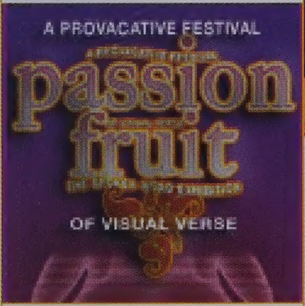
Facilitators: Men of Rainbow
Brothers Saving Brothers 2.0
Facilitators: Amani Hall and Anthony Kilgore
Transgender Institute: What's Your "T"... The Benjamin Standards of Care
Speaker: Dr. Marci Bowers, Ph.D.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 351 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48226 (in Harmonie Park btwn Greektown & Ford Field)

Time: 8:00 P.M. - Midnight
Karibu Komedy Klub
Detroit black prides first annual variety show hosted by renowned comedian Dana Austin sponsored by Karibu House Inc. Featuring local and regional talent.

Location: 1515 Broadway Theater, 1515 Broadway, Downtown Detroit (Across from Detroit Opera House in Grand Circus Park) Cost: TBA

Time: 8:30P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
Passion Fruit Festival | Erotic Slam, Open Mic & The ChillOut Lounge @ Midnight - A provocative experience of spoken word hosted by PicNap Poets Kalimah "Locmama" Johnson and Johnny "Obadele" Jenkins, with smooth grooves by DJ Andre Royster of SoundCircle. Collective. Featuring open mic, and the first annual Passion Fruit Erotic Slam. At midnight we host a special presentation of the ChillOut Lounge Open Mic wsg. Slam fee is $10.00. Slam participation limited. $100.00 Grand Prize and special prizes. Top five slam finalist will compete at The Harmonie Park Exhibition



Time: 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
PINK ICE BREAKER VI "THE FINALE"
Sponsored by Pink Ice Productions. Featuring dance, music by local house DJ's, entertaiment and dance until dawn.

Location: Club Q , 141 W. Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. For additional informationcontact via website or via email.
Cost: $15.00: Limited, discounted and advance tickets available via www.Ticketweb.com

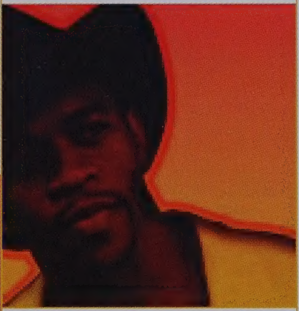
Saturday, July 30th

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
GENESIS CONFERENCE VI
Brothers Saving Brothers 3.0
Facilitators: Amani Hall and Anthony Kilgore
Female Empowerment Through Writing
Facilitators: The Punany Poets

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 351 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48226 (in Harmonie Park btwn Greektown & Ford Field)
Cost: Free | Donations Accepted

Time: Noon to 7:00 P.M.
10th Annual Pride Picnic & the Ruth Ellis Pride Parade

Featuring entertainment, vendors, networking and fun. Karibu House host the annual Kid's Fair in the early afternoon; music provided by local area DJ's. Sponsored by the Ford Motor Company and the Human Rights Campaign.
Location: Palmer Park
Cost: Free



Time: 9:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.
The Punany Poets | The Head Doctor
Bring a love, a friend, a group or cum alone to witness The Head Doctor for the First Time in Detroit... In The Head Doctor... An Interactive performance that will follow you to your dreams... and stay with you for a lifetime. The Punany Poets live, keeeping it Hotter than July with San Francisco's own For'Play Productions and DBGPride Inc... stand up and be counted in the Sexual Revolution on Everyone's lips... The Head Doctor...Unveiling the Erotic side of you!... in a performance of Poetry, Exotic Dance and theater as seen on HBO! Live! July 30, 2005 at 1515 Broadway --- Call (510) 835-2270 for Group Rates.

Location:
1515 Broadway Theater, 1515 Broadway, Downtown Detroit (Across the street from the Detroit Opera House)
Cost: $20.00

Time: 10:00 P.M. - Until
Strongarm Dress To Sweat
Annual rock hard, dressed to sweat summer blast. Featuring hip hop, R&B, House, Reggae and Soca. DJ line-up includes resident MC Kage with DJ Maestro (DET), DJ Reddawg (DET), DJ Unknown (NYC), DJ Cameron (NYC). Platinum VIP passes available to enter Strongarm's Muscle Lounge. Contact: Email

Location: The Tangent Gallery , 715 E. Milwaukee (btwn Oakman & Hastings, Midtown Detroit. For additional information. Contact: Email
Cost: TBA

Sunday, July 31st

Time: 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Jazz Jam & Brunch @ The Rhino on Harmonie Park

A special afternoon of smooth jazz and late Summer vibes. Featuring entertainment, refreshments and a great way to close out Detroit's 10th annual pride celebration.

Location: Rhino On The Park - Harmonie Park - Cost: $20.00

Time: 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Passion Fruit Festival | Harmonie Park Spoken Word Exhibition

A provocative outdoor exhibition of provocative spoken word presented by the host of Detroit's PicNap Poetry Series, Kalimah "locmoma" Johnson and Johnny "Obadele" Jenkins. Featuring the final round of the Passion Fruit Slam Competition with special performances and music by SoundCircle Collective. Contact via email.

Location: Harmonie Park, Downtown Detroit, Randolph & Gratiot Ave. near host hotel.
Cost: $5.00 Door | $10.00 Slam Entry

Time: 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
Family Re:Union Afterglow
We invite everyone to join us for the official closing event. Featuring special guest, entertainment and artist.
Location: TBA Cost: TBA

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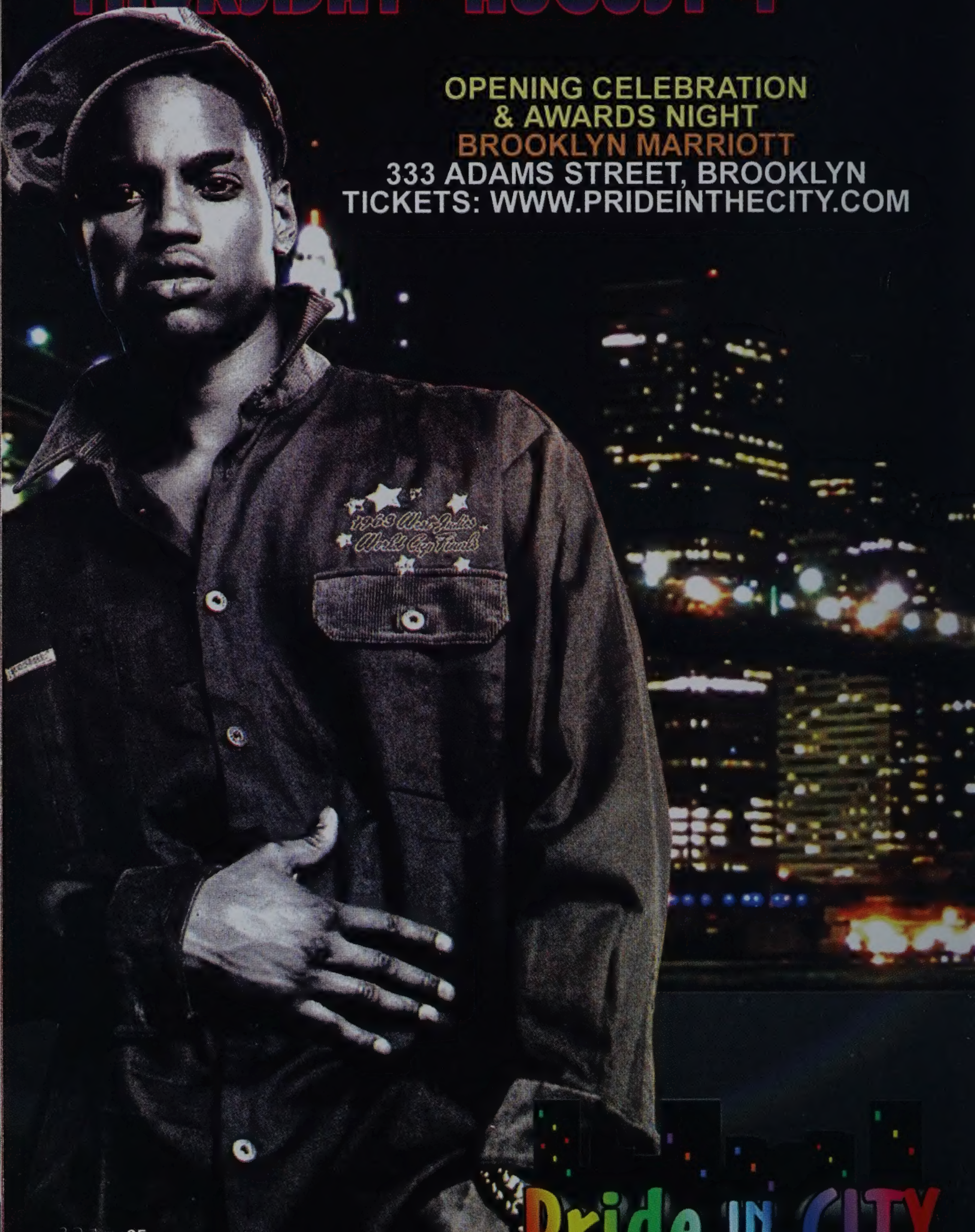
1963 West Indies
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Pride IN THE CITY

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11 PM UNTIL
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SUNDAY- AUGUST 6
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2005 Black Prides & National Circuits Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

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International Federation of Black Prides

At The Beach In LA

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, De of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

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MAY 27 - 30, 2005

JUNE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
JUNE 8 - 12, 2005

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 17 - 19, 2005

BLACK PRIDE NYC
JUNE 21-26, 2005

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 1 - JULY 4, 2005
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www.thewindycitypride.org
SEE PAGE 25 & 28 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

AT THE BEACH LOS ANGELES
JULY 1 -4, 2005

TAMPA, FL
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July 14-17, 2005
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Riccrollins@aol.com
lorenz762@aol.com
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CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE
JULY 15 - 17, 2005
charlottencblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 27 -July 31, 2005
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PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 29 - 31, 2005

AUGUST

CLEVELAND, OH
BLACK, GAY & PROUD
CELEBRATION
AUGUST 1-7, 2005
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BROOKLYN NY*
PRIDE IN THE CITY
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005
78-230-0770
www.pocc.org
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JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

Charlotte NC Black Gay Pride

July 14-17, 2005

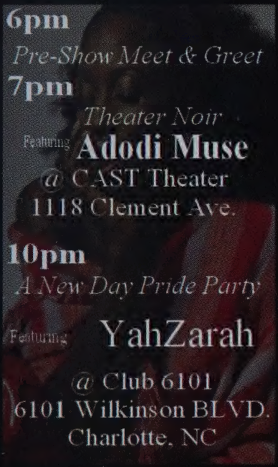
"A New Day"

www.charlottencblackgaypride.com

Thursday July 14th
Townhall Meeting
@ Lesbian and Gay Community Center
1401 Central Ave

Sponsored by the NBJcoalition.org

FRIDAY
July 15th



6pm
Pre-Show Meet & Greet
7pm
Theater Noir
Featuring **Adodi Muse**
@ CAST Theater
1118 Clement Ave.

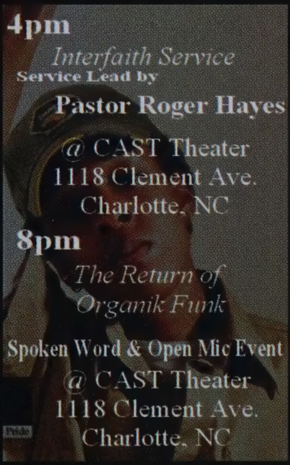
10pm
A New Day Pride Party
Featuring YahZarah
@ Club 6101
6101 Wilkinson BLVD.
Charlotte, NC

SATURDAY
July 16th

10am - 6pm
Black Gay Pride Expo
FREE!
@ Spirit Square
7th & College
Downtown Charlotte

10pm
A New Day Pride Party II
w/ Special Guest **Jacki-O**
@ Club 6101
6101 Wilkinson BLVD.
Charlotte, NC

SUNDAY
July 17th



4pm
Interfaith Service
Service Lead by
Pastor Roger Hayes
@ CAST Theater
1118 Clement Ave.
Charlotte, NC

8pm
The Return of Organik Funk
Spoken Word & Open Mic Event
@ CAST Theater
1118 Clement Ave.
Charlotte, NC

2005 Black Pride & National Circuit Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

AUGUST cont.

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 11 - 14, 2005

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 18-21, 2005

BAY AREA BLACK
IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
AUGUST 16-21, 2005

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
AUGUST 27, 2005

SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2005
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
(404) 872-6410
info@intheatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com
SEE PAGE 13 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OCTOBER

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE, INC.
OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
CONTACT PERSON: Carlton Smith
410-524-1555/443-691-9669
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org
SEE PAGE 22 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6-9, 2005

JACKSON, MS
MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6 -9, 2005

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2005
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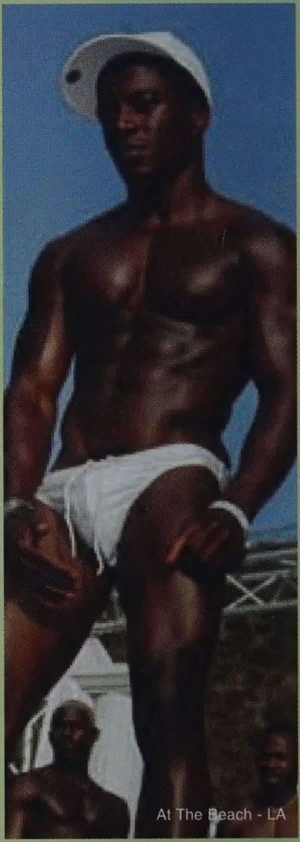
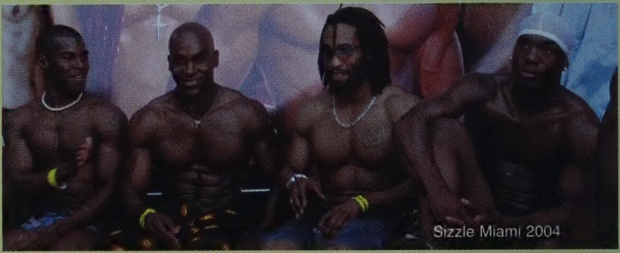
brosunited@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com

NOVEMBER

NEW ORLEANS, LA
POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2005



At The Beach - LA



Sizzle Miami 2004

Pride Events/Circuits Listed With A (*) Have Elected Not To Become Members Of The Federation At This Time

THE LIONS DEN

2005 MEGA PARTY

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Friday, September 2, 2005

THE WELCOME TO ATLANTA

2005 MEGA PARTY WEEKEND KICKOFF RECEPTION

@ Sheraton Buckhead

6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet ATL's finest.

Saturday, September 3, 2005

THE LIONS DEN PRESENTS...

THE 2005 WET DREAM POOL PARTY

@ Sheraton Buckhead

Featuring the hottest fashions for 2005
and a special guest host and performer

Sunday, September 4, 2005

THE LIONS DEN PRESENTS...

THE 2005 EARTHQUAKE PARTY

Guess who's performing at this year's event.
Be sure to pick the August 2005 Edition of Clikque
for The Lion's Den 2005 Artist Line up.
Music By: The Legendary DJ Sedrick and DJ Truz (Hot 107.9)
And Featuring the hot and sexy Lion's Den Boyz In The Flesh

Monday, September 5, 2005

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Reservation Code: Lions Den

www.thelionsdenatlanta.com - Info Hot Line: 770-991-6929

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AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

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Weekend to include:

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- Poetry Slam
- 5th Annual Stand Up and Represent Black Pride March and Celebration
- Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion
- Candlelight Vigil
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Maxine Blue Productions presents:

Black Pride Atlanta

with the Diva

Wednesday: Stripper Showdown @ Club Imperial

Thursday: All For One Night @ CoCo LoCo

Friday: Hot Papi Night @ The Chaparral

Saturday: Grown Folks Party @ Knights Hall

Sunday: Ledgendary Hip Hop Night @ The Chaparr

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For the First Time Ever, Gay Americans Have a Home on Television Just for Them

A Place Where They Can See Themselves and Be Themselves

Logo, MTVN's new ad-supported basic cable channel for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience, launches June 30 with more than one thousand hours of programming content and in approximately 10 million homes across the United States. Programmed with a mix of original and acquired entertainment that is authentic, smart and inclusive, Logo features more than 200 lesbian- and gay-themed feature films, an ongoing documentary series, newscasts tailored for the gay and lesbian community and quality original shows and specials.

As a place where the LGBT viewers can see themselves and be themselves, Logo has assembled an extensive library of premier film titles from every major studio and every influential independent, including HBO's Emmy Award-winning Angels in America, Mulholland, Drive, Kissing Jessica Stein, High Art, Philadelphia, Moulin Rouge, Billy Elliott, Latter Days, Far from Heaven, A Home at the End of the World, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, The Birdcage, Six Degrees of Separation and Fried Green Tomatoes. Logo also features a news partnership with CBS News and original co-branded content from LPI Media's category-leading titles The Advocate, Out and The Out Traveler. The network also showcases an ongoing original documentary series, Momentum, focusing on the variety of distinct and different lives within the LGBT community, from a gay rugby team and gay rappers to lesbian surfers and gay Latinos.

The network is home to strong original series, including: Noah's Arc, a scripted comedy-drama series based on the web phenomenon following struggling screenwriter Noah, an African-American gay man navigating love and life in Los Angeles with his three best friends;

"DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF, "GET IN THE ZONE WITH OZONENTERTAINMENT."

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Xtasy Thursday
"LIVE ENTERTAINMENT"
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Friday, Sept. 2nd
MANHUNT FRIDAY
"BOIZ PEEPIN BOIZ NIGHT OUT"
with Host MC BUSTA LUV & DJ TRUZ
CLUB TOWER II 735 Ralph McGill Blvd ATLANTA, GA

Monday, Sept. 5th
2ND ANNUAL EXOTIC DANCER COMPETITION
LABOR DAY
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Noah's Arc, a scripted comedy-drama series based on the web phenomenon following struggling screenwriter Noah, an African-American gay man navigating love and life in Los Angeles with his three best friends

Open Bar, an original reality series following one man's coming out process as he works to open a West Hollywood gay bar; Round Trip Ticket, a globe-trotting travel show; The Ride, a first-person look at some of the participants traveling the 585 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the annual AIDS/Lifecycle fundraiser; and First Comes Love, a comedy/reality series from Canada hosted by actor/comedian Scott Thompson (Kids in the Hall) who has to fulfill the wedding dreams of gay and lesbian couples in just two weeks.

On July 24, the network presents the first-ever telecast of the GLAAD Media Awards, featuring Billy Crystal, Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming, Marcia Cross, Felicity Huffman, Margaret Cho, Liza Minnelli and John Stamos, among others. Building up to the airing of The 16th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, Logo will present a week-long tribute to the Media Awards and past award recipients and an original, accompanying documentary, Logo will present profiles of GLAAD's past winners; previously honored films and documentaries; and interstitial interviews with actors, filmmakers and cultural commentators.

MTV Networks, a division of Viacom International Inc. (NYSE: VIA, VIA.B), owns and operates the following television programming services -- MTV: MUSIC TELEVISION, MTV2, VH1, MTVU, NICKELODEON, NICK AT NITE, COMEDY CENTRAL, TV LAND, SPIKE TV, CMT, THE N, NOGGIN, MTV INTERNATIONAL, LOGO and THE DIGITAL SUITE FROM MTV NETWORKS, a package of 13 digital services, all of which are trademarks of MTV Networks. MTV Networks also has licensing agreements, joint ventures, and syndication deals whereby all of its programming services can be seen worldwide.

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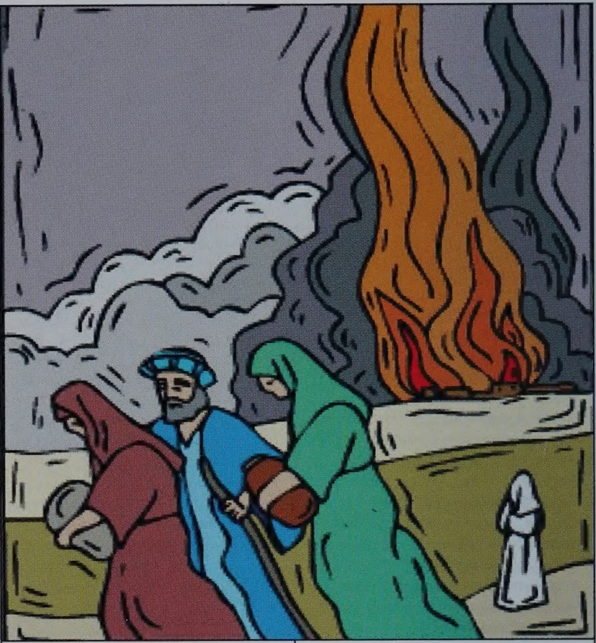
BY: TUAN N' GAI OF BIAZO MINISTRIES

The TRUTH About Sodom & Gomorrah

Part I

Reference Scripture: Genesis 18:20 - 19:29



What can be said about Sodom and Gomorrah that hasn't already been said? We know that God destroyed the two large cities. And we know that if a loving God destroyed them, they must have been in such a horrible spiritual state, that He could no longer withhold justice, and He had to take judgmental action. God HAD to destroy them. But why?

Certainly you've heard that it was because of "inhospitality to strangers" or because of their "blatantly homosexuality". And who knows what else is floating out there as justification for these two cities' destruction? The purpose of TAKING A CLOSER LOOK is to discover the truth. Why should we delve deeper to find out something other than what we've been taught? Because believe it or not, the knowledge of the truth about Sodom and Gomorrah has very important spiritual applications to ALL people. There are so many questions that are left unanswered with the "old school" teaching of this story.

Was there ONE definitive reason, or were there many reasons?
Were they destroyed for homosexuality or inhospitality?
Was idol worship a factor?
Did the "men" of the city really want to have sex with the visiting angels?
And more relevant to today, if God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for homosexuality, will He also destroy our society?

These questions and many more plague the minds of so many people. And since we are seeking answers about a Biblical account, why not consult the very place where we've been taught in error? The Bible. We must be mindful that the truth is not in just the letter of the Word, but in the spirit of the word. The truth about Sodom and Gomorrah can only be revealed by careful study and the proper life application of it's spiritual truths.

Traditionally, we have been taught that the Biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for "homosexuality" and other "perverted sexual behavior". That just may have had a part to play in the destruction of the two cities. But I submit to you that this is not the only or premier reason for it, if it had a part to play in it at all. Let's just deal with the text shall we? As the story goes in Genesis 19:1-11, two angels arrived at Sodom at night, and Lot was the one sitting at the gate of the city. He bowed before them and asked them to stay at his house to wash their feet and spend the night (which was common custom in those days when dealing with strangers. It was a show of good hospitality). When they refused, he insisted that they go to his house and he prepared a meal for them.

Before they all tore it down for the night, all the "men" from every part of the city came and bum rushed the house, asking about the two. The crowd insisted that they be brought out so that they could "know" or have sex with them. Lot goes out and pleads with these "men" not to do this wicked thing, and asks them to take his daughters and have their way with them. The "men" of the city pressed their way and accused Lot of trying to be "all that" when he was just a stranger in their city himself. They threatened to do worse to him than they would do to the angels if they weren't brought out to them. It got so bad, the "men" tried to break down the door. But luckily, the angels had Lot's back and pulled him back inside the house and struck all SODOM AND GOMORRAH the "men" outside with blindness so they couldn't find the door (paraphrasing mine).

Now this is tha deal...if you are gonna study scripture, you need to study it in its proper context and with the right spirit. You can't be trying to prove a point or be "theologically correct" in a debate. You have to be searching the heart and mind of God for the truth that He placed in His Word so you can properly use it to help yourself, and to help others. The Bible says, "All scripture is God breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in righteousness' (II Timothy 3.16). Nowhere is 'abuse' and 'used for debate and political gain' mentioned. The Word, even when used in rebuke or discipline, is meant to edify or build people up and not tear them down. With that being said, it is important to realize that the Old Testament was originally written in Aramaic or Hebrew. And the New Testament was written in Greek. And to properly ascertain the true meaning and spirit of the text you must go back to the original language. In doing so, I believe God will guide you into the truth of His Word. Let me break it down to you on tha real.

The angels came into the city and Lot was sitting at the gate (that's what the scripture says). And when they approached him, he bowed before them and invited them into his home thus offering them proper hospitality (which was common in that time period). After they all ate dinner and were about to go to bed, the 'men' from every corner of the city surrounded Lot's house insisting that he bring the two angels out.

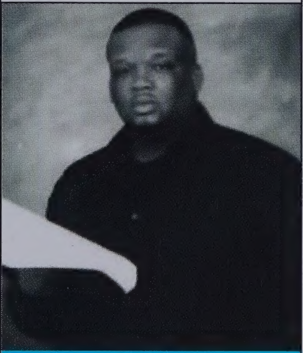
Now, the Hebrew word for 'men' in this particular text is 'enowsh', defined 'mortals (as in Adam); humanity; people; congregation; male and female' not just 'males' as with the Hebrew word 'iysh,' as some would like you to believe. The people wanted to 'know' the men (or angels). Now, this is the tricky part. The Hebrew word for 'know' is 'yada', meaning to properly ascertain by seeing; observing or reflecting; or to know by experiencing. And in this text, there is no differentiation. The Bible, in this particular text, does not say either/or. So one cannot logically, or correctly say that the male population of Sodom wanted to 'have sex' with the angels as traditionally thought. We might also add that in the Bible, the Hebrew word 'yada', meaning 'to know' is used 943 times. Of those times, only 10 have a sexual connotation. Therefore, the likelihood of it having a sexual meaning in this text is very slim.

This is where the debate comes in. One school of thought uses the fact that Lot offered his daughters to the crowd and pleads with them to have their way, but not to do "this wicked thing' to the men as proof that their intent was to have sex. Another school says that the daughters or women were 'property' (like women were in that time), and he was offering them as slaves to the crowd. When in all actuality, Lot could have become wealthy by receiving 'dowries (or money)' for his daughters when their hand was asked in marriage. One school of thought says the 'men (meaning males)' of the city were sex perverts and sought after the men with lustful intent. Another says that the men were trying to figure out if these 'men' were spies who knew Lot, and wanted to make sure they weren't in the city to try to take over. There are other issues that can be introduced and addressed here. Like the fact that when the men of the city were victorious in war or in a conquest, they would often beat and rape the men they defeated as to exercise ultimate dominion over them. Thus making them no more important or valuable to society than women or 'property'. This was a humiliating and emasculating experience for any man to endure.

Let me also throw in that in that time, common practice was to question visitors about their journey and their intent as to determine if they were spies and if they were trying to take the city by force. The 'men' of the city were keepers of the cities in which they lived and were responsible for it's protection. And the arguments go on, and on, and on, and on, and on. Nobody really cares that the Bible explicitly SAYS why Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Check this out...

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. (Ezekiel 16.49-50)

Now, as I said before, sexual perversion and other behavior may have been part of the reason Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed. If it was, it wasn't the ONLY thing that brought on the destruction. And if you really STUDY the Word, you will remember that God was already gonna destroy the cities BEFORE the angels even got there. The truth about Sodom and Gomorrah is, GOD JUDGES SIN (anything causing spiritual separation from God)!!! God allowed that story to be printed in the Bible to teach us that inhospitality to our fellow man, idolatry, and violence are sins that make Him sick, and they bring about the destruction of ANY people. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a warning to all of us that how we treat others is important to God in that He made us all, and wants us to live in harmony.



Tuan N'Gai was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas where he was groomed from an early age to fulfill the call to ministry on his life. He is an Ordained Evangelist, and the Founder of Biazo Ministries, an affiliate ministry of Church of the Full Covenant. He is the former Associate Pastor of Administration and one of the Co-Founders of Living Faith Covenant Church in Dallas, Texas. He is also a celebrated speaker, workshop facilitator, worship leader, song writer, poet, and choral conductor.

Tuan is the acclaimed author and publisher of the controversial book 'Will I Go To Heaven? The Black Gay Spiritual Dilemma'. The book has been distributed internationally, and has afforded Tuan the opportunity to travel extensively spreading the message of God's unconditional, all-inclusive love. He has been a featured guest on Black Entertainment Television's premier talk show 'Oh Drama!', heard on radio talk shows across the country, and reviewed in nationally known publications.

SIZZLE 2005™

Pictorial Review

See Why Miami Has Been The Hot Spot During Memorial Day Weekend For The Past Four Years

PHOTOS BY JERRY BOLES

If you were there, rumor has it that you experienced the time of you life. And if you weren't, rumor has it that you regretted going elsewhere.

This year, Sizzle has again proven itself as America's superior black gay circuit event ever. But don't just take our word for it, here's what some participants had to say about Sizzle 2005:

I must confess that I was compelled to respond to your Sizzle recap. I have attended numerous major events all across the country that cater specifically to the Black alternative community and by far this is one of the most organized and professionally executed events.

* * *

Hey Dwight. Your event this year overall was the bomb man. You and your team put this together. All the other cities including my home town ATL have to step up to the plate now because you and your team raised the bar. Sizzle

2005 was off the chain. I`ve attended black pride in various big cities since the late 80s, from DC, ATL, LA, Phili etc but Miami is the best due to your good work. Much love to you my brother and keep up the good work. Keep raising the bar on the other cities that host Black Pride. Good job. God bless. Peace and love to you and yours. - ***Shingai Hillary***

* * *

Often times we as black people can't congregate and enjoy each others company without a major altercation. That was definitely not the case in Miami. The Sizzle Staff was very professional and attended to the patrons request accordingly. They were very prompt with the shuttles and provided very hospitable service consistently. I can truly say that my time and money was spent on a very good event and will definitely not miss Sizzle 2006. - Best Regards ***Rob Johnson***

* * *

I'm still recooperating. Very well put together. – ***Stanley Adams*** of Detroit

* * *

Dwight, First let me say that this event was very well planned and put together. I cant imagine that anyone did not have

a good time at Sizzle. The DC crew have already made our hotel reservations for 2006. You know that Memorial Day was Pride in DC and many who remained wished that they were at Sizzle. I think that the cruise idea and beach event for 2006 would be a great idea. Already looking forward and will spread the word about Sizzle 2006 here in DC. - *Thomas Scott* of DC

* * *

Thanks for a great weekend. I'm having "Sizzle" withdrawal. Hotel and venues were great. This was well organized. Even the quality of the promotional material and the welcome pack information was top notch - *Greg B*

* * *

Dude, I had a f@#king blast. Enjoyed every minute. To bad u can't change the weekend to have the pride so a brotha can get there and puerto rico. So, i guess next year i will just have to miss out. 4sho I will return the year after next year. — *Mario Howell*

* * *

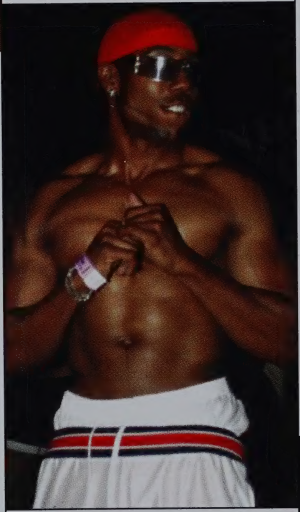
THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! MR.POWELL for the Sizzle 05 was my very first trip to Miami, i'm usually in DC for Memorial Day Weekend, I'm pleased to let you know that i really really enjoyed myself. All the club venues where very nice,the Dee Jays were all off the hook,the strippers where off the chains, but most of all i really love the prestigeness of my VIP card man walking straight into the party while 500 or more people were standing in line was very very smooth.Thanks man and in reguards to next year improvements i would love to do the cruise thing if it jump off put me first on the list<wink>.Thanks again man i really really needed "Sizzle 05" may God bless you and all your staff,sponsors and all that worked so hard on "Sizzle 05" job well done. - *TYRONE PATTERSON*

* * *

dwight, thank you for taking time out to organize such a great weekend for the black and latino gay community. my friends and my self had an extremely good time. your choice of participating clubs for the event were upscale and decent. I can't wait for sizzle 2006 the cruise is an excellent idea. - *Martice* of Baltimore

* * *

Sizzle was off da chain again my second year I attended. Each year I have attended I brout 4 - 6 new people fro the west coast. Good job dwight. Awesome events well organized. Quality people hanging out. - *Garry Rolando*



* * *

Hey Dwight, this bongane here, brotha, brotha you sure showed up and showed off. From your drivers on the shuttles buses to Robert's staff in the registration table for picking up vip cards everyone was treated us with highest respect. *Bongane Nyathi* from South Africa

* * *

I want to express my sincerest thank you on Sizzle2005. This was my first time attending this event and I had a blast. I couldn't get over how many straight looking brothers were at this event. I enjoyed everything.... I really really really enjoyed myself and I am looking forward to next year. Please keep up the good work. - Sincerely, *Patrick* from New Orleans

* * *

Dwight. I wish to send KUDOS to you and your staff for such an outstanding production over the holiday weekend. Particular "shout out" goes to Robert; who made our group in attendance feel like we knew him on a personal level. I can only imagine the amount of time, energy, and resources required to successfully complete such an undertaking....You and your staff made it look effortless....As a fan and collector of your magazine I truly wish you continued success with all that you do....Thanks Again for a fabulous weekend - *Robert*

* * *

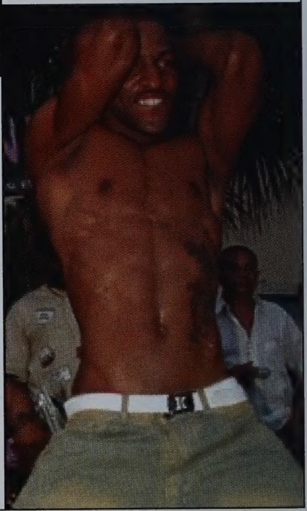
This was my first time there for this event, and I must say that all the events were well organized and lots of fun. All the hard work that you guys put into planning the events was very evident and paid off. Thanks for the great work that you all do and I hope to be back for Sizzle 2006. – *Rondell*, Brooklyn, NY

* * *

Dwight, I would like to personally thank you and your staff for all that you did. I have been attending your well organized events for now three years and even have booked my hotel reservations and vacation around them. Words can not describe or express the time that I had this year and years past. It was 'A DEAL MUCHO'! I look forward to next year and many years to come. Congratulations and thank you again! - Forever SIZZLE GROUPEE, *RMC879*

* * *

Being from Miami I had no clue of Sizzle until last year. My best friend and I vowed that we will do the Sizzle



experience this year. Thank you , thank you , thank you for hosting such an event. It was the bomb to say the least, I felt like I was on vacation. I met some great new friends and my eyes were definitely please, had no idea how fine black gay men could be.

* * *

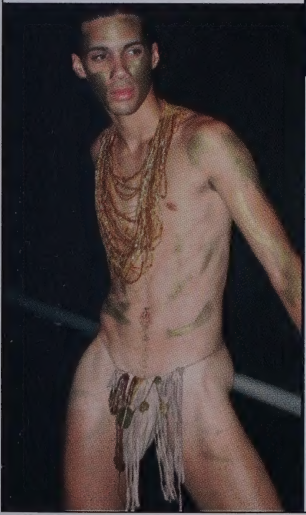
Next year my best friend and I will do it all over again. Only thing I am adding are the various forums you held, which I did not have the pleasure of attending.Great job Mr. Powell and your team!! See you next year! - *Angeljav748*

* * *

Mr Powell, a special thanks to you and your Sizzle staff. I reside in Memphis, Tn and I must say that every activity that I attended was an enjoyable one. I look forward to the upcoming Sizzle activities and greatly anticipate more venues such as the ones you have mentioned in your correspondence. I am personally interested in seeing Sizzle become one of the most recognized Black Gay Pride events in America. You have access to one of the most beautiful and well-traveled cities in the world. And to utilize every aspect of your city would be most advantageous for Sizzle's participants. What you mentioned as "upscaled events" are what I see as informative and well-rounded socials. As well, I feel that those ideas will definitely put Sizzle in a class of its own and become even more desirable. This was my first Sizzle but not my last. Hats-off to the Sizzle committee and I look forward to next year's even more sizzlin' Sizzle... Sincerely, *Juan Royston* in Memphis

* * *

Dwight! Thanks for providing a weekend that I'll neva forget!...You guys went above and beyond to put on a first class event that put the others to shame... Rodney Brenneman of Detroit



* * *

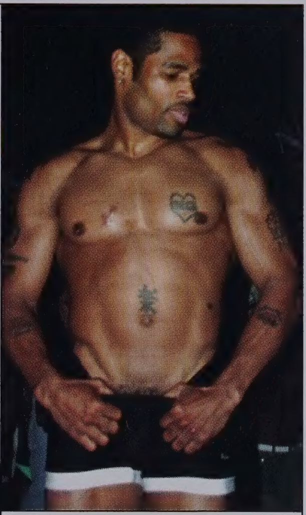
Dwight & Robert: I just want to take this time to express my feelings and excitement on how much fun my friends and I had at Sizzle. Sine the first one I have continued to invite more people and we are so impressed about all that was done and coordinated. The shuttles were awesome and the clubs were really great. Especially the fact that they were all so close to the hotel. Of course as a VIP I cannot express how well that we are treated. My friends who did not have VIP this year will certainly be getting the VIP card next year. Robert, we enjoyed your hospitality and making sure we were all OK. Keep doing what you all are doing: There are some who really do appreciate all that you all do for us. *Darren* of Atlanta

* * *

I must say that the most fun at sizzle2005. I was also a VIP holder and I have never seen anything so organized. I have been to events with VIP passes and it was a horrible experience. The venue for the first night was magnificent. Hope that venue is in the selection. I really do hope you can get some party on south beach. I am looking forward to next year. Keep up the good work and communications you send out. Peace my brother – *Wayman Miles*

* * *

I must say, Sizzle 2005 surpassed any weekend party event I've ever been to. Everything, from the website to the events and parties, was well organized and drama free. As far as I can tell, everyone had a great time. You and your crew certainly deserve an applause to a job outstandingly done! Congratulations, Dwight, and good luck with your future endeavors. Sincerely, *Donato C. Clarke* (Nate)



* * *

Thanks guys for the time of my life,me and my friends had a ball. I loved the organization, the parties,the shuttle, the hospitality center and all,ya'll are just awesome. Definitely count us in for next year. - *Hudson.*

* * *

Dwight, I have to say that you pulled it together! Miami was TIGHT! Thanks for giving brothers a great celebration! See ya next year, - *Andre and Rudy*

* * *

hey dwight, just wanted to let you know that as a first time participant from washington dc, sizzle2005 was off the hook. the planning, coordination and accommodations were the bomb. my friends and i are looking forward to sizzle2006. *Carlton Bryant*

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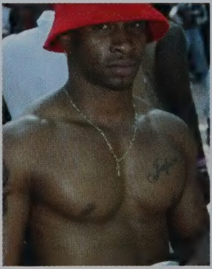

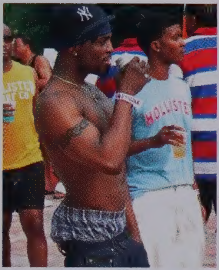

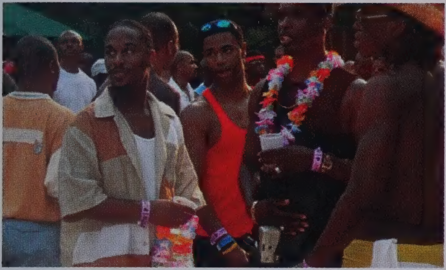

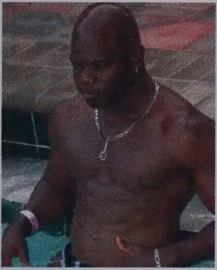

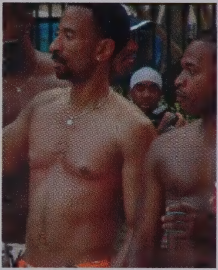

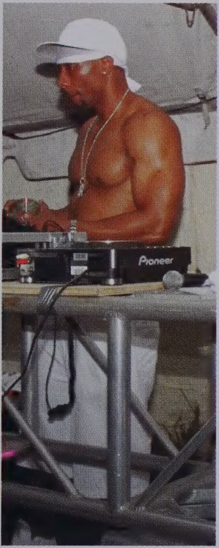
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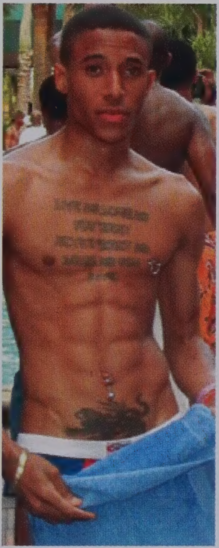

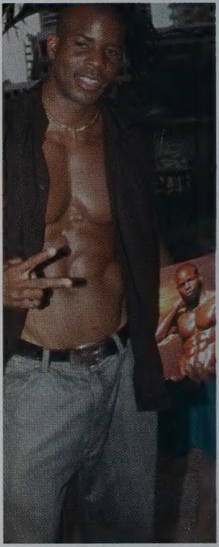

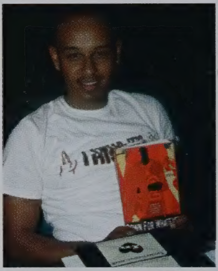

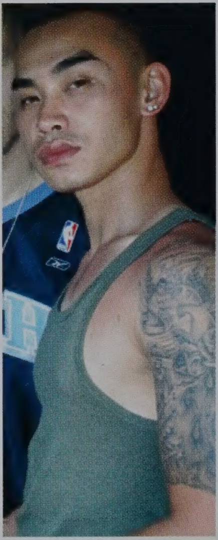

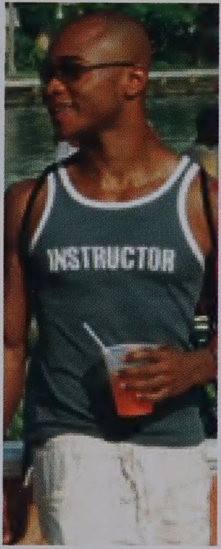
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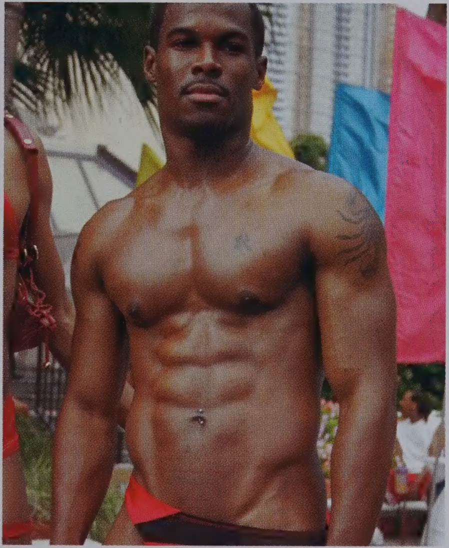

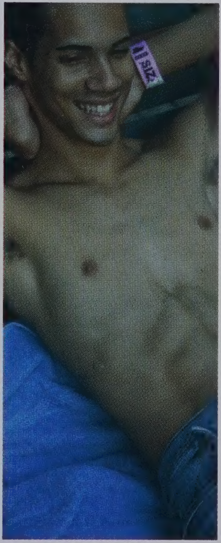
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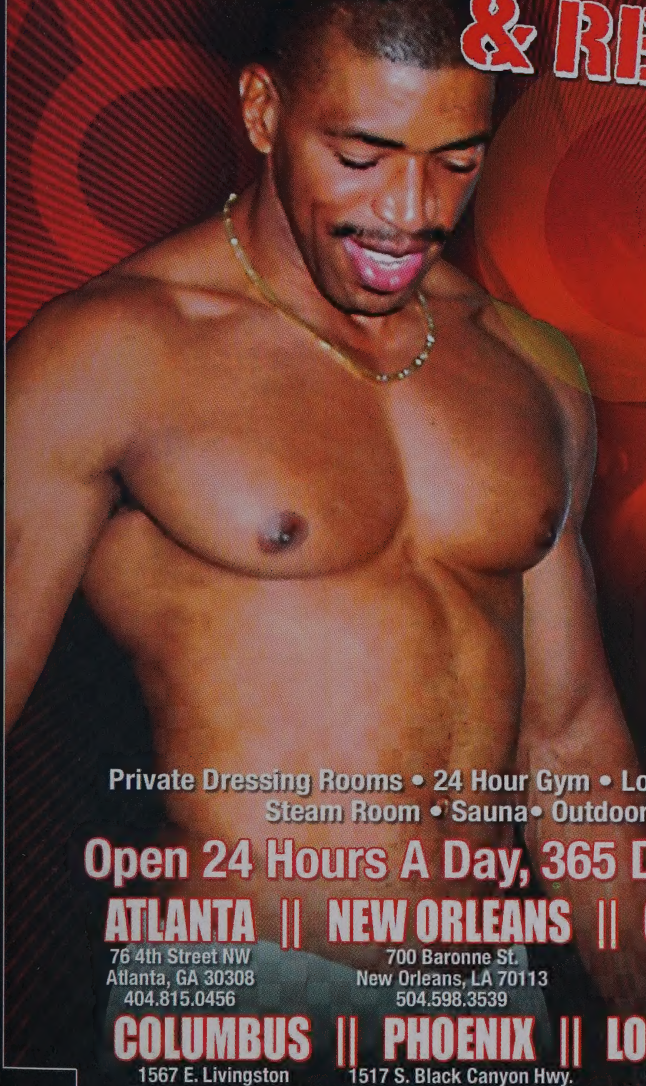

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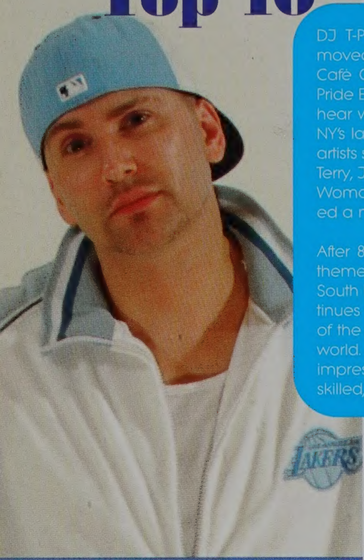
MUSIC REVIEWS

T-PRO / BILLBORAD

T-Pro's Top 10



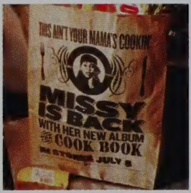
1	I Just Want It 2 Be Over	**KEYSHA COLE**	A&M
2	Selfish	**FANTASI** f/ Missy Elliott	J RECORDS
3	Make Her Feel Good	**TIARRA MARIE** f/ Jay Z	ROCK-A-FELLA
4	Loose Control	**MISSY ELLIOT**	ATLANTIC
5	Welcome 2 Crunkrock	**LIL JON** REMIX	WHITE
6	To The Floor	**MARIAH CAREY** f/Nelly	COLUMBIA
7	Pon De Replay	**RHIANNA**	SONY
8	Damn	**112**	DEF-JAM
9	That's What I'm Talkin Bout	**AMERIE**	SONY
10	Don't Ya Wish Ya Girlfrind	**PUSSY CAT DOLLS** f/Busta	PD

DJ T-PRO in his earlier years played as resident DJ to DC's largest club. He later moved to New York playing famous clubs like the legendary Limelight, Roxy, Tunnel, Café Con Leche, Octagon, Warehouse, Cheetah, Escuelita, Exit and the HotBoyz Pride Events featuring Mary J. Blige and Lil Kim. Mixing up the beats people want to hear with the ones they need to hear, he soon became a most requested DJ at NY's largest venues. This amazing DJ has also produced/remixed tracks for many artists such as Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, EPMD, KRS-One, Eric B & Rakim Todd Terry, Jellybean Benitez, Arthur Baker, Kristine W and yes, even humorously, Wonder Woman. Finding an even larger following with each mix under his belt T-PRO started a notorious lil party called "MILK".

After 8 years MILK closed its doors making history as one of the longest running theme parties in New York history. Now living in sunny Miami and a Resident DJ at South Florida's Largest College Night COLISEUM Fridays in Ft. Lauderdale, T-PRO continues to DJ once a month at SPLASH in NYC and even finds time to produce some of the best Club visuals ever seen and enjoyed for Nightclub Clients all over the world. T-PRO shows even the seasoned DJ that there is always a new way to impress and improve. Yes, the first Multimedia DJ has landed! Well mannered, well skilled, well loved, and well, just plain cute.

MISSY ELLIOT,

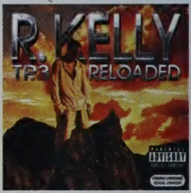
THE COOKBOOK, - in stores July 5



By now u have heard "Loose Control" and are feeling the 80's Cybertron sample...but stop breakin' 4 a second and listen up. Missy is joined by; Tweet, Ciara, Fatman Scoop, The Neptunes, Mike Jones, Pharell, Slick Rick, and Grand Puba. There is something 4 everyone...with tracks like "Mami", "4 My Man" (lol), "Juicy", and "Irresistible Delicious". According 2 Elliot herself in a recent Interview "I really do think this is my best album...I played Lil' Kim the album the other day and she told me it was incredible and that there was not one song on it that she didn't like". This 2 Disc set includes DVD features on the second disc (though I have not received that version of the promo, shady labels...ha) Yet I have 2 agree with Kim and give my sis Missy the highest rating of (10T).

R KELLY,

TP.3 RELOADED, in stores July 5th



Michael Jackson got off (pun intended, lol), does that mean R will 2? Until his case comes thru, he is putting all the scandals on CD. This is how it goes "Trapped In The Closet" chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (he's carrying on). R takes this girl home 2 her house, has sex, falls asleep and gags that he is waking up the next morning still in her house. Remembering his WIFE he freaks and rushes 2 get dressed only 2 find that the woman is also married and the husband is coming up the stairs. He has nowhere 2 hide but in the closet. The man hears R's cell phone go off and starts 2 open the door. R pulls a gun.....Ok, pt. 2 they confront each other...threats, blah blah blah....someone rings the bell right before r shoots.....Ok, pt 3....The husband has a secret 2...HIS MAN IS COMING UP THE STAIRS....mmmhm-mm, and supposedly in the video this part is played by Trey Songz. If it only it were tru, that is one fyne boy, I wish he was Gay, he can call 866-TPRO...just kidding...but seriously, if the CD is any part as good as this

At the end of each review, T-Pro rates each album by giving T points of 1 thru 10. 10 being Tight/Awesome and 1 being Wack

CLUB SHOT OF THE WEEK

pre-release, JAY-Z honey, u can't deny, R Kelly Is one talented singer songwriter.(9T)

KEYSHA COLE,

THE WAY IT IS, in stores now

Hot, Hot, Hot new CD from Diva Keysha. Her sultry voice will take u into R&B heaven with the luscious Quincy Jones Style Ballad "We Could Be", and although I do not recommend cheating, the track "I Should've Cheated" was quite a read 2 some boyfriend she had. Other Tracks I Liked were the Kanye West produced "I Changed My Mind", "Situations" and of course the biggest hit at Sizzle 2005 "I Just Want It 2 Be Over". I can definitely promise u won't want this disc or her career 2 be over anytime soon. (8T)

BLACK EYED PEAS,

MONKEY BUSINESS, in stores now

the BLACK EYED PEAS
MONKEY BUSINESS

Ok, This one is a lil silly and that is a good thing. It is a brilliant album in which reggae, rock, pop and hip hop influences r all mashed together on tracks that sound like they wrote em in high school (also a good thing, because high school was fun). So if u wanna take a ride outside of the same old Hip Hop boredom...try "My Humps" with it's hilarious references to the Junk Up In yo Trunk, or "Dum Diddly" which is incredible fusion of pop and dancehall that only Nelly Furtado or Gwen Stefani have done so successfully b4. Other highlights include "Bebot", "Like That" and "Don't Lie". Monkey Business is just that, funky monkey business messin with the music business. (8T)

YIN YANG TWINS,

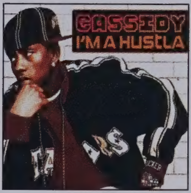
U.S.A. UNITED STATE OF ATLANTA, in stores June 28th

YING YANG TWINS

After hearing Free, Missy, Busta, Jackie O and just about everybody else freestyle over this past winters big hit "Wait" I had hoped there were more surprises on this disc than on their last CD which was pretty much straight south stuff, and I was in fact, surprised. Although there isn't another "Wait" on the disc, there are some #1's that feature Jackie O, Maroon 5, Bun B, Anwar, BG, Pitbull & more so u know this will be all over the clubs this summer...and any group that can put a song on their CD called "Fuck The Yin Yang Twins" just earned an extra T... (7T)

CASSIDY,

I'M A HUSTLA, in stores June 28th



Not the pop CD. Cassidy is showing that he got skills that go far beyond those first pop hits. This CD includes the stylized flashback tracks like "B-Boy Stance" Chillin in the club with his b-boy stance...hangin on with is Dick in his pants....ok, ok, he says Gun, but I know what y'all b thinking...and PS....have we learned nothing bout the violence in HH? This CD had a feel of a NAS CD except Cassidy rarely reaches out 2 get deeeeep with us, choosing 2 stay mostly on the surface of life. He is young though, and this CD shows promise of a tru MC. Other highlights "AM to PM" and of course, "Husta" remixed with Mary J Bilige. Half the tracks are amazing half are so-so, so. (5T)

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night life

club guide

Remember that clubs and bars go in and out of business all the time. It is usually a good idea to call before you go to any of th establishments listed below. Call 954-455-3394 To Advertise your club - $15/mo

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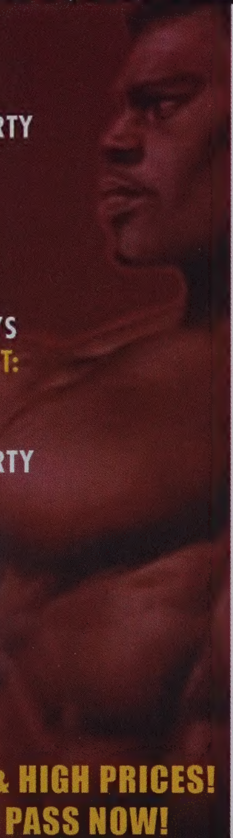

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Remember that clubs and bars go in and out of business all the time. It is usually a good idea to call before you go to any of th establishments listed below. Call 954-455-3394 To Advertise your club - $15/mo

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2911 Grand Ave............ ☎305-476-0202

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1057 Washington Ave .... ☎305-538-9478

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901 Cowan Street ...... ☎615-742-1166

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2004 AP Tureaud Ave. ☎504-301-5121

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135 Christopher St,...... ☎212-462-0027

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20 W.39th St,................ ☎212-749-4479
Website: www.clubshelter.com

CLUBHOUSE
2234 3rd Ave, Harlem.. ☎212-330-8101
Website: www.clubworldusa.com

ESCUELITA
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Website: www.escuelita.com

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KRASH
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CLUB COLOURS
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SAN DIEGO, CA

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HARBOR CLUB
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BACHELOR'S MILL,
1104 8th St., S.E. .... ☎202-544-1931

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St., N.E. ...... ☎202-529-0626

THE EDGE
56 L St., S.E. .... ☎202-488-1200.

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1651 S Congress .... ☎561-649-5557

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$25 Space Limited So Come Early
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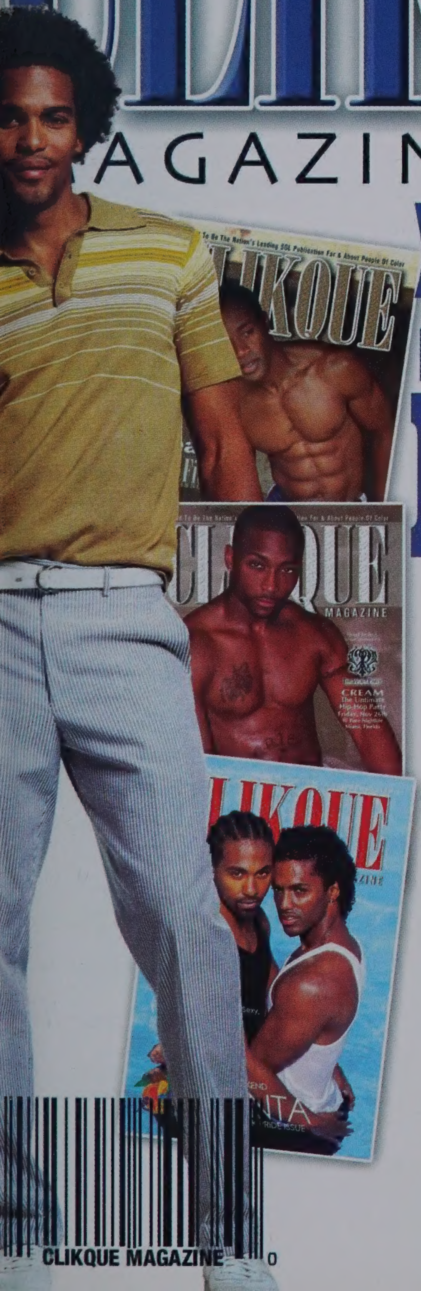

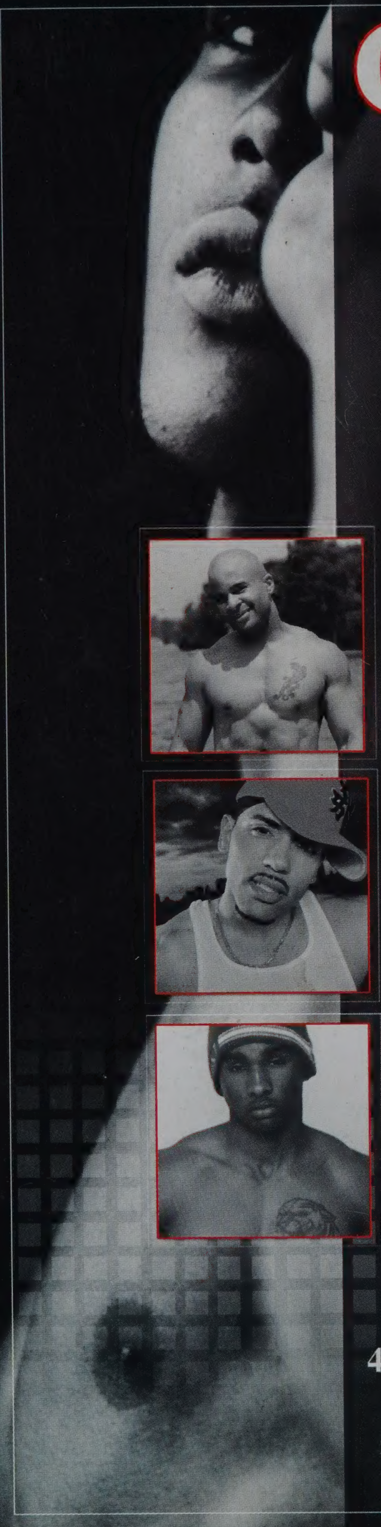

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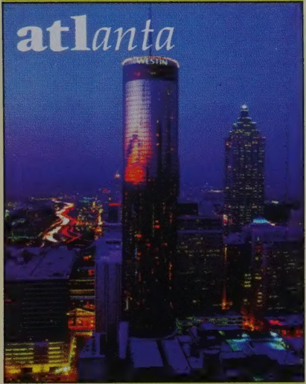

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1008 Brady Ave

9 Cosmo / Lava Lounge (See pg 46)
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14 Tower II (See pg 44)
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C Historic Sweet Auburn Ave
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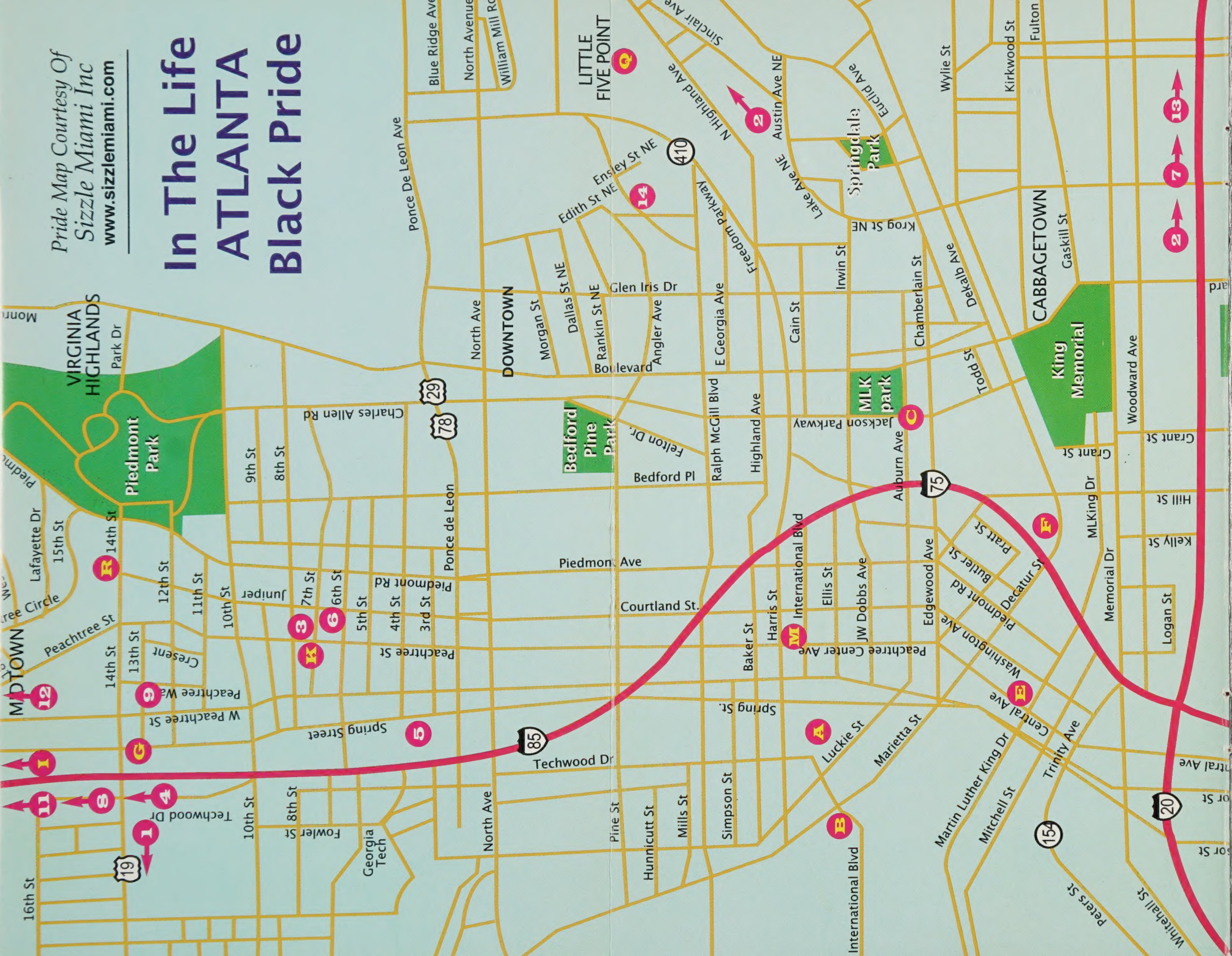
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3rd St
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Peachtree St
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Central Ave
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Trinity Ave
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Grant St
Hill St
Kelly St
MLKing Dr
Memorial Dr
Logan St
Peters St
Whitehall St
Fowler St
Pine St
Hunnicutt St
Mills St
Simpson St
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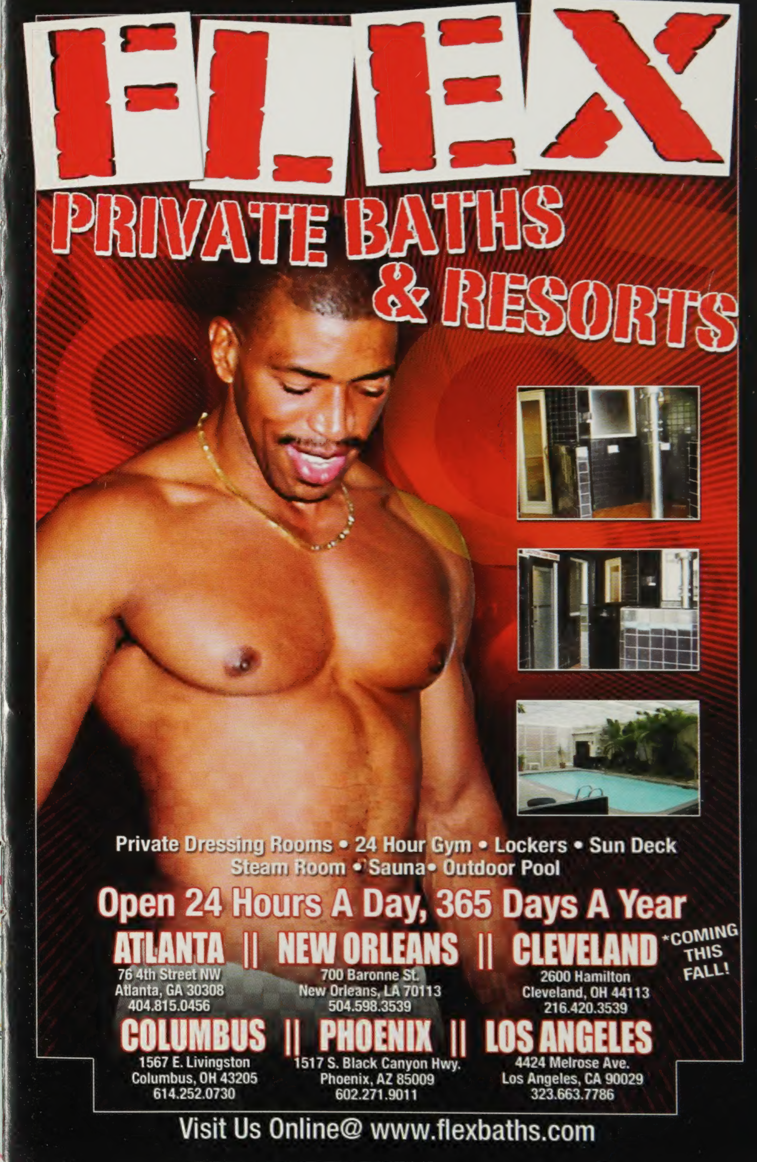
In The Life
ATLANTA
Black Pride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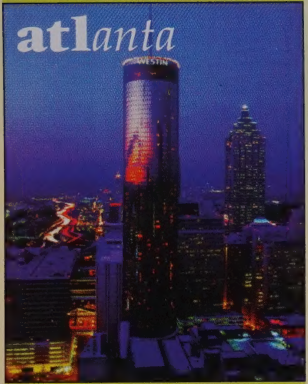

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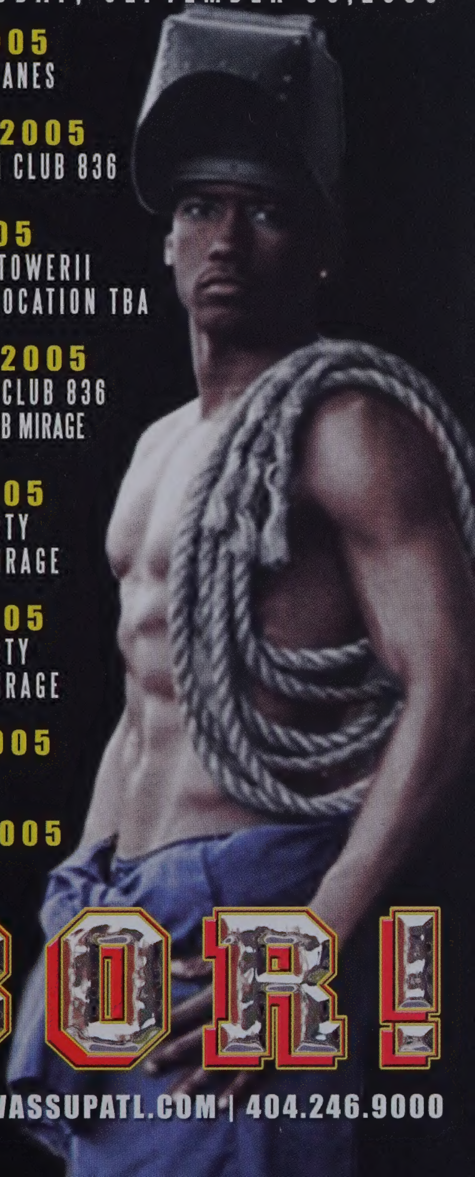

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THE NAIL | MANHUNT AFTER PARTY | LOCATION TBA

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DOUBLE SHIFT | SUPER SIZE AFTER PARTY | CLUB MIRAGE

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OVERTIME | AFTER PARTY | CLUB MIRAGE

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 04, 2005
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EDITOR'S DESK

DWIGHT S POWELL

This issue, I will deviate a little from my usual blurb. As you may already know, Clikque is the only surviving national Black gay publication. Through all the rough times, we're here and still going strong. This is made possible in part by the advertisers and the hard work of the dedicated and loyal staff and writers.

We believe that Clikque is a very important and valuable product being offered to our community. The timely news, entertainment and information are a much-needed resource.

As I said earlier, Clikque is all we have right now, and I would like to encourage all of you to embrace and support it. If there is something about the magazine you like, we'll like to hear from you. Likewise, if there are issues and concerns that you make have as it pertain to our format, layout, content or lack there of, please, let us know. With your support, we can continue to make Clikque Magazine the best that it can be.

You may have noticed that all summer long we have been conducting a subscription drive campaign. We are trying to get this magazine in as many hands as possible. If you're not a current subscriber, I would like to invite you to become apart of the Clikque family.... we promise to keep you informed about every thing and all happening in our community. If you are a current subscriber, I would be greatly appreciative if you would turn us on to as many of your friends as possible. We need the support of all of you. I am asking all of you that are reading this to shoot an email to everyone on your email list and direct them to our website: www.clikque.com

We hope that the pride map provided courtesy of Sizzle Miami Incorporated was of great use to you as you take-on Atlanta, during pride during the Labor Day Weekend. As a major sponsor of pride, this year we are please to again be working with In The Life Atlanta, the official pride organizers of pride in Atlanta. Support them by purchasing their ITLA Pride Passes on their official website www.Inthelifeatl.com

Finally, we are so excited about the VIP / Welcome reception that we will be hosting for ITLA on Friday 2nd September @ The Atrium On Sweet Auburn. This is a pre-club event that benefits ITLA, so be sure to get there early. Come and mingle with some of our national leaders, authors, activists and entertainers.

See you at the event and I hope that you enjoy this issue of Clikque.

Dwight Powell

Clikque MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief / Publisher
Dwight Powell
dwight@clikque.com

Art Direction
Dwight Powell

Graphic Artist
William Young

Sr. Staff Writers
Scott Bogan
Craig Washington

Music Reviews
T-Pro Mix

PHOTOGRAPHER
Malik L Williams

CONTRIBUTORS
Keith Boykin, Cleo Manago, James Earl Hardy, Herdon Davis, May Rowland, Anthony Antoine, Lou Chibbaro Jr., Elezabeth Greenberg, Robb Leigh Davis

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ARTICLE BY ROBB LEIGH DAVIS

Gay Black Invisibility Explored

NYU panel looks at challenge of accurately portraying African-American gays and lesbians

In a cultural, if not political sense, the United States has made dramatic advances in recent years in recognizing its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT)citizens.

At the same time, there are many in the LGBT community who believe that the American public generally lacks a full grasp of the diversity within queer ranks. If that lack of awareness is to be effectively challenged, in whose hands does the responsibility lie?

On Friday, June 24, at New York University, Black Pride NYC teamed up with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to sponsor a panel discussion titled, "M.I.A.? Positive Black LGBT Images in Media."

The panel last Friday at NYU discussing the invisibility of the African-American LGBT community in the media included: (l. to r.) GLAAD's Katina Parker, the Task Force's Jason Cooper, GLSEN's Riley Snorton, Freedom to Marry's Samiya Bashir, journalist Kai Wright, Ray Daniels of the National Black Justice Coalition, and filmmaker Maurice Jamal.

The panel, moderated by Katina Parker, a media expert at GLAAD, featured filmmaker Maurice Jamal ("Ski Trip"); Samiya Bashir, communications director for the Freedom to Marry Coalition; Jason Cooper, senior field organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Riley Snorton, a spokesman for the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Ray Daniels, director of communications for the National Black Justice Coalition; and journalist Kai Wright.

"There's no doubt that we're there," said Bashir. "But it's always as the butt of a joke. We'll be on a sitcom, but never in a drama. There's never an attempt to show any sort of humanity. It's always stereotypical."

"Whether it's film, or television or the front page of a newspaper, people need to understand that this is a money-driven process," said Wright. "Artistry is nice, but at the end of the day, the people running these companies want to know if your story is going to bring money in the door. That's the reality. It's a business."

Most of the panelists agreed that what imagery does exist in the major media plays itself out in extreme cases of stereotyping that began with the snap queen and have now morphed into a fascination with 'the down low.' Several speakers argued that the media continues to criminalize black gay men as either sexually exotic but inherently dangerous creatures or as promiscuous sexual deviants spreading disease and destroying communities. The panelists credited black lesbians for providing role models as mothers and caregivers within both the black and gay communities, but said their image, when it is present at all, is typically limited either to the role of an aggressive bull dyke or as fodder for heterosexual male fantasy.

"The only people who can change this is us," said filmmaker Jamal. "Straight white people don't sit around and talk about gay issues. Gay white people do. We have to take charge of our images ourselves. Too many people, other than ourselves, are painting our picture. We have to paint our own canvas."

GLAAD's Parker echoed the sentiment that the community must hold itself responsible, discussing her mother's difficulty in accepting her daugh-

INVISIBILITY CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

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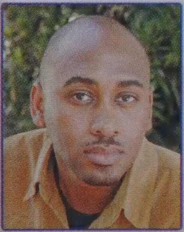

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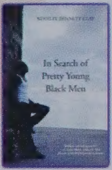
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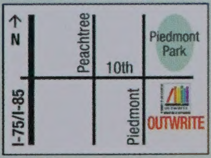
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INVISIBILITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ter's sexuality.

"To my mother, gay meant the white men she sees on television, and all the good and bad that goes along with those images," Parker said. "She couldn't comprehend how her daughter, her baby, fit in with that vision."

Jason Cooper spoke of his experiences with the Task Force, going door-to-door in Atlanta doing voter outreach and encountering the attitudes that continue to prevail.

"People refused to believe that I was gay," he said. "I didn't fit the idea they had created in their head about what being black and gay means. One woman looked at me and said, 'You don't look like gay people. You look like my son.'"

The panelists gave a great deal of credit to LGBT youth of color, who are mobilizing in ways that generations before them never did.

"The young people are almost demanding control of their image and saying they refuse to be depicted in someone else's eyes," said GLSEN's Snorton. "And many of these youth are black and Latino who are simultaneously challenging ideas of race."

A difference in opinion amongst panelists and those the audience came when discussing the question of whether homophobia is more prevalent within the black community, with some seeing it as a smoke-and-mirrors tactic by the media to further divide the communities and others feeling that there is more truth to the statement than people are willing to acknowledge.

"People are more hostile when they can't see you," said Daniels of the National Black Justice Coalition. "But it stems more from ignorance than hatred. If they have nothing in their face challenging the thoughts that have been in their minds for years, it becomes extremely difficult to change their way of thinking."

Parker brought the evening to a close stressing the need for the black LGBT community to mobilize itself to counter the inroads that the religious right has made recently in aligning itself with the black church-going community across the nation.

"We must begin to put our own image out there, whether it's film, art, photography, snap queen or lesbian with a Ph. D.," Parker said. "We can't be heard, if we don't allow ourselves to be seen."

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By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

Bill to unite gay couples split by nationality

Measure would allow U.S. citizens to sponsor partners

Joanne, an illegal immigrant from Poland, fell in love with an American woman in 2003 when she was 21. When her family found out she was a lesbian, they threatened to have her deported.

The threat was made more frightening because American citizens and permanent residents cannot sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration benefits the way that straight married couples can. The Defense of Marriage Act prohibits gay couples from receiving the federal benefits of marriage, including immigration rights, even if they are legally married in Massachusetts, Canada or elsewhere.

But Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) recently introduced the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA), formerly the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, to allow same-sex "permanent partners" to stay together.

Leahy and Nadler were not available for comment this week.

The bill would create the new "permanent partner" category for immigration purposes only. Same-sex couples would be subject to the same evaluations that straight couples go through to verify authenticity of a relationship.

The current immigration restrictions have forced many "bi-national" gay couples – where the partners are from different countries – to move outside the United States to one of the 16 countries that provide immigration benefits for same-sex couples.

Gay citizens of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom can sponsor their same-sex partner for citizenship.

But Joanne and her partner want to stay in the United States. After her family's threat, they moved together to California, then back to New York, where they settled in Harlem. Joanne spoke to the Blade on the condition that her real name not be used.

Living in the shadows

Joanne's status puts her at risk, like so many illegal immigrants, of exploitation and limited employment options. Employers won't sponsor her because she doesn't have enough years of training or education, she said.

When Joanne worked at a laundromat in New York for $6 an hour, her boss withheld a week's pay when she told him she was quitting. She couldn't protest because of the familiar threat of deportation.

"I basically don't exist in this country," she said.

For lower-income people like Joanne, the immigration restrictions on gays hit hardest, according to Adam Francoeur, program coordinator for Immigration Equality, a group that advocates on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered immigrants.

There are two ways to access the immigration system, through family or employment, he said. The family option is largely unavailable to same-sex couples, so that leaves them with employment, which carries training and education requirements, Francoeur explained.

"An immigration system without the family unification option can extremely favor higher income individuals," he said.

Victoria Neilson, legal director of Immigration Equality, said the current laws rip families apart for no reason other than their sexual orientation. In fact, she said, having an American partner can be reason to deny a visa because foreign visitors have to show they do not intend to stay in the U.S. permanently.

"It has a devastating impact on families," she said.

The bill's chances of passage are unlikely, its supporters say. It has been introduced every year since 2000 and has never come to a vote, although Francoeur said it enjoys bipartisan support.

Those who oppose the bill often say it is a backdoor to gay marriage, he said. Focus on the Family, a conservative group that usually opposes any pro-gay bills, was not available for comment.

Others have criticized the measure because they claim it would open the floodgates and allow too many people entry to the country, Francoeur said. There are about 36,000 bi-national gay couples living in the U.S. according to a 2000 census, he said.

Jack Martin, spokesperson for the conservative group Federation for American Immigration Reform, said his group would lean against the legislation if it increased the number of immigrants in the U.S.

"Current immigration is too large, therefore any change that would have the effect of increasing immigration we would probably oppose," he said. "We haven't taken any specific position with regard to the specific bill."

'Two tough hurdles'

In today's conservative Congress, the UAFA has the double obstacle of being pro-immigrant and pro-gay.

"It's a pretty anti-immigrant Congress [and] a pretty anti-LGBT Congress," Neilson said. "Two tough hurdles to overcome."

NEWS CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

RELATIONSHIPS / IMMIGRATION

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The post-9/11 crackdown on immigrants has made it harder for binational same-sex couples. While some laws have stayed the same on paper, student and work visas of the type many gay couples use to stay together are now the subject of much closer scrutiny, said Francoeur. Also, employers are more reticent to sponsor foreign nationals.

"Extra scrutiny often leads to denial," Francoeur said.

That is just what happened when Shane, a British citizen, tried to visit his partner, Jeremy, an American citizen, in Georgia. Shane spoke on the condition that the Blade not use his or his partner's real name.

Frustrated by U.S. immigration rules, Shane and Jeremy moved to Britain in 2004 where they can establish permanent residency. After a same-sex couple lives together for two years, a British citizen can sponsor his partner, Shane said.

When they lived together in the U.S., Shane could only visit for 90 days at a time.

"For two years, I lived as a third-class citizen," he said. "I could be taken away from [Jeremy] at any stage."

Earlier this month on Jeremy's trip to the U.S., he asked Shane to come visit him. Shane flew in to Atlanta and, to his shock, was denied entry. He was told that on a previous visit he overstayed by one day but was not provided more details, Shane said.

He had the choice between being held in a detention center until a flight was available or buying a $5,000 first-class ticket home, he said.

"I was searched, detained, fingerprinted, photographed, had my passport marked, and returned on the next flight back to the United Kingdom," Shane wrote in a letter to an Atlanta newspaper.

The following day, two U.S. federal marshals went to Jeremy's home, interviewed him and requested his banking and employment information, according to Shane. The next time Jeremy flew into the U.S., he was pulled into a second room and asked if he had "anti-American sentiments," Shane said.

When asked how his experiences have influenced his opinion of the U.S., he said, "I've been really careful not to bash the country because my partner is American."

However, he added, "It astonishes me the way America acts like the freest country. ... We've struggled very hard just to stay together."

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg can be reached at eweill-greenberg@washblade.com.

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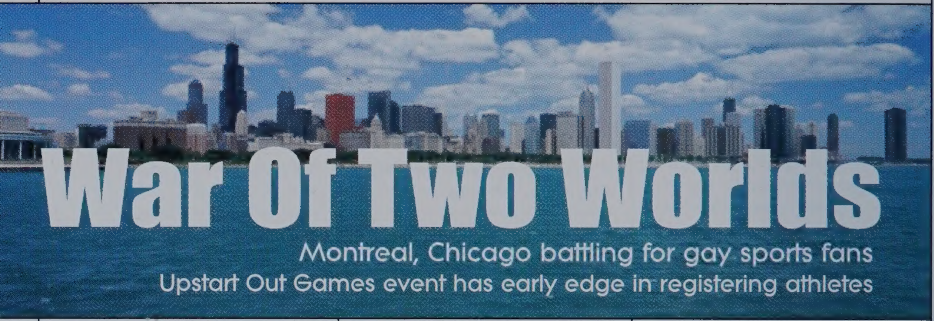

War Of Two Worlds

Montreal, Chicago battling for gay sports fans
Upstart Out Games event has early edge in registering athletes

A breakaway organization promoting an international gay and lesbian sports competition in Montreal in July 2006 called Out Games has registered more athletes and teams than its rival Gay Games event, which is set to take place in Chicago two weeks earlier.

But supporters of both events say it's too soon to determine which one will draw the most participants and spectators as both sides wage an aggressive campaign to sign up paid registrants.

The two sides are pushing their campaigns through upscale Web sites accessible in several languages. Elected officials and business leaders in both cities have joined the gay organizers to help promote the two events in an unprecedented effort to lure millions of gay tourist dollars to their hometowns.

At first, many gay sports enthusiasts predicted the two competing events would lead to a financial disaster for both and would dilute and split apart what had become a unified quadrennial gay event. Now, some are wondering whether the competition has triggered an unprecedented professionalism and such an overwhelming desire to come out ahead of the other that both events might turn out better than past Gay Games – both in attendance and the financial bottom line.

As of this week, officials with Out Games announced that 5,600 participants had registered and paid in full or in part to compete in the Montreal games, including at least 1,500 Americans. Gay Games officials said about 3,000 participants who paid their registration fees in full have signed up to participate in the Chicago events. Both sides said the participants who signed up come from more than 20 countries, with most expected to come from North America.

Each side predicts at least 12,000 participants will attend their respective events.

Competing for more than athletes

The two sides are also competing to line up gay choruses and bands from Europe and North America. In recent years, the Gay Games evolved into a cultural festival as well as an athletic event, with extravaganza performances by choruses, bands and top-name entertainers taking place at stadiums where the opening and closing ceremonies are held.

"We still don't know where most of our teams will go," said Brent Minor, president of Team D.C., an umbrella group that represents more than two-dozen D.C. area gay and lesbian sports teams and groups, ranging from soccer and golf to swimming and volleyball.

"Team D.C. voted to support our participants, whichever event they choose to attend," Minor said.

Minor said members of some of the D.C. teams, as well as teams in other cities, are taking a wait-and-see posture to determine which city will capture the top competition in a category of sporting event – such as soccer or swimming.

The San Francisco-based Federation of Gay Games, which was formed by the late gay Olympic athlete Tom Waddell in the 1980s, is credited with starting what has become known as an international gay and lesbian sports "movement." Waddell almost single-handedly put together the first Gay Games competition in San Francisco in 1982 following a legal ruling initiated by the International Olympics Committee that forced him to drop the name "Gay Olympics."

The gay international sporting competition continued every four years since that time under the Gay Games title, growing each year in numbers. The founding event in 1982 drew 1,350 gay and lesbian athletes mostly from North America and Europe, according to Roger Brigham, communications director for the Federation of Gay Games.

The number of participants jumped to 12,500 in New York City in 1994, climbed to a record 13,000 in Amsterdam in 1998 and dropped back to 11,000 in Sidney, Australia in 2002, Brigham said.

Shortly before the Sidney games were held, the FGG named Montreal the winner in a competition among gay sporting associations to sponsor the 2006 Gay Games. A short time later, the Montreal organizing committee, Montreal 2006, says it lined up generous sponsors from some of Canada's largest corporations and persuaded the governments of Montreal, Quebec, and the national Canadian government to sign on as "partners" to the event and to kick in $1 million each to help finance the games.

ARTICLE BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., Window Media

The committee called those developments historic, saying Canada's entire governmental establishment had endorsed and agreed to help subsidize an international gay sporting event.

What happened next takes on an entirely different perspective and interpretation among the Gay Games and Out Games leaders.

The Gay Games in Sydney, while hailed as a highly successful sports event, turned into a financial disaster, with millions of dollars in debt and gay and gay-friendly vendors left holding the bag with unpaid bills. Coming on the heels of similar financial problems with the previous two Gay Games in Amsterdam and New York, the FGG pushed through a series of rules changes that required the Montreal committee to turn over financial control of the event to the FGG. Up until that time, the committees for the host cities had full financial control over the events.

Former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury has taken a lead role in preparing for the first Out Games, scheduled for next summer in Montreal. (Photo by Ahn Young-Joon/AP)

Among other things, the FGG wanted Montreal to scale back its initial budget from 24,000 participants to 12,000, saying a 24,000 turnout appeared unrealistic and could lead to financial problems similar to Sydney's. FGG officials also requested that Montreal not link its sporting events to a planned international gay rights conference and to Montreal's annual Gay Pride event known as Diversité. In addition, the FGG objected to the Montreal committee's plans to link the Game Games to various circuit parties that have been associated with Diversité.

"This just came out of the blue after we put together a detailed and what we thought was a highly successful business plan," said Mark Tewksbury, an Olympic athlete and one of the Canadians organizing the Montreal Games.

Tewksbury and other leaders of Montreal 2006 called the FGG rule changes unfair. They point out that nearly all of Montreal's plans for the 2006 Gay Games – the projected 24,000 participants, the link to the Diversité Gay Pride festivities, and the international gay conference – were submitted to the FGG as part of Montreal's bid for the games. No one raised objections to any of these proposals at that time, Tewksbury said.

Brigham, the communications director for FGG, said the organization's international governing body, which includes representatives from nations in Europe and North America, approved the rules changes after assessing the financial problems encountered by Gay Games committees in New York, Amsterdam and Sydney.

"The income projections have always been overblown," he said. "We are concerned about hurting local gay businesses," he said, noting that gay-owned businesses that have provided services to help put on the games often have been stiffed when the committees run out of money.

Brigham said FGG officials also decided – based on what he said was consultation with gay sporting teams in North America and abroad – that the Gay Games should stick to its original role as a sports event, with some performing arts and cultural activities like gay chorus and band performances. Linking the games with other events such as circuit parties, political conferences, and Pride events – as proposed by Montreal – would not be consistent with the Gay Games and its "mission" to promote the gay sports movement, Brigham said.

According to Brigham, the FGG would have approved a larger budget to accommodate more than 12,000 participants later in the process, if Montreal succeeded in signing on more participants.

Negotiations break down

Nearly two years of negotiations followed. Each side has disputed claims by the other over the reasons the negotiations ultimately broke down. In November 2003, Montreal 2006 stunned the gay sports establishment by saying it would hold its own international gay sports competition in Montreal on the dates initially designated for the Gay Games: July 29-Aug. 5, 2006.

The group announced later that it had formed a new entity - the Gay & Lesbian International Sports

GAY GAMES CONTINUES ON PAGE 18

ARTICLE BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., Window Media

GAY GAMES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Association – and would take bids for Out Games II in 2010.

In March 2004, the FGG named Chicago as the host city for the "official" 2006 Gay Games. A newly formed Chicago organizing committee, Chicago Games, Inc., has since formed and hired gay corporate executive and past Gay Games athlete Brian McGuinness as CEO of the new organization. McGuinness is a Chicago native who learned to speak French while serving for three years as finance director for an international media company based in Paris, the Chicago Games Web site says.

With Montreal working hard to attract European participation, Chicago Games has been touting McGuinness's international background and finance skills in what is shaping up as a heated public relations campaign between the two cities.

The Chicago mayor and the Illinois governor has each endorsed the Gay Games, and Chicago's business establishment and Chamber of Commerce are pulling out all the stops to promote the event, said Kevin Beyer, chair of the Chicago Games Marketing Committee.

Decathlete Tom Waddell, shown here preparing for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, helped organize the first Gay Games in 1982. Waddell died in 1987. (File photo by AP)

Last year, Montreal 2006 hired Rachel Corbet as executive director of Montreal 2006. Corbet has extensive experience working with international sports events in Canada and Europe. Like McGuinness, she has a growing staff of full-time employees and comfortable office space in a prestigious downtown office building to help her promote the Out Games events.

Corbet said she is hopeful that both events will be successful but predicted the Out Games would surpass the Gay Games in future years to become the main international gay sporting competition. She dismissed calls by some Gay Games supporters that Out Games should become a North American gay sports competition similar to the yearly Euro Games, which are held each year except during the year of the Gay Games.

She predicts the opposite might happen – that the Gay Games will shrink in participation and be forced to limit its role to North American teams.

"It is hard for a lot of GLBT people to come to the U.S.," she said, pointing to U.S. immigration policies that ban people with HIV from entering the country unless they get a special waiver. She also points to hostility toward the U.S. war in Iraq and to President Bush in general by many Europeans. With Canada's decision this year to legalize same-sex marriage and with Montreal's reputation for being North America's most gay-friendly city, Corbet said, Montreal is likely to attract far more participants from countries outside of North America.

Boyer and Brigham strongly dispute this assessment. The two note that the U.S. routinely waives its immigration restrictions for people with HIV for special events like the Gay Games. They point to Chicago's reputation as a gay-friendly city, with a large gay community and pro-gay laws.

Live broadcasts planned

Boyer said another draw for Chicago is the decision by the newly formed gay cable television network, QTV, to provide live television coverage of the Gay Games for six-to-eight hours a day for the entire eight-day event. QTV is waiving its fee for the game by unscrambling its channel to allow any cable TV subscriber to watch the games if their local cable company carries the QTV network, Boyer said.

"Yes, there is competition between these events," Boyer said.

He said the gay sports movement has grown dramatically in the U.S. and Europe since the last time a U.S. city has hosted the Gay Games in 1994. With thousands more participating in gay sports competitions in their home cities and countries, there could be ample participation to push the attendance in both Chicago and Montreal to more than 12,000.

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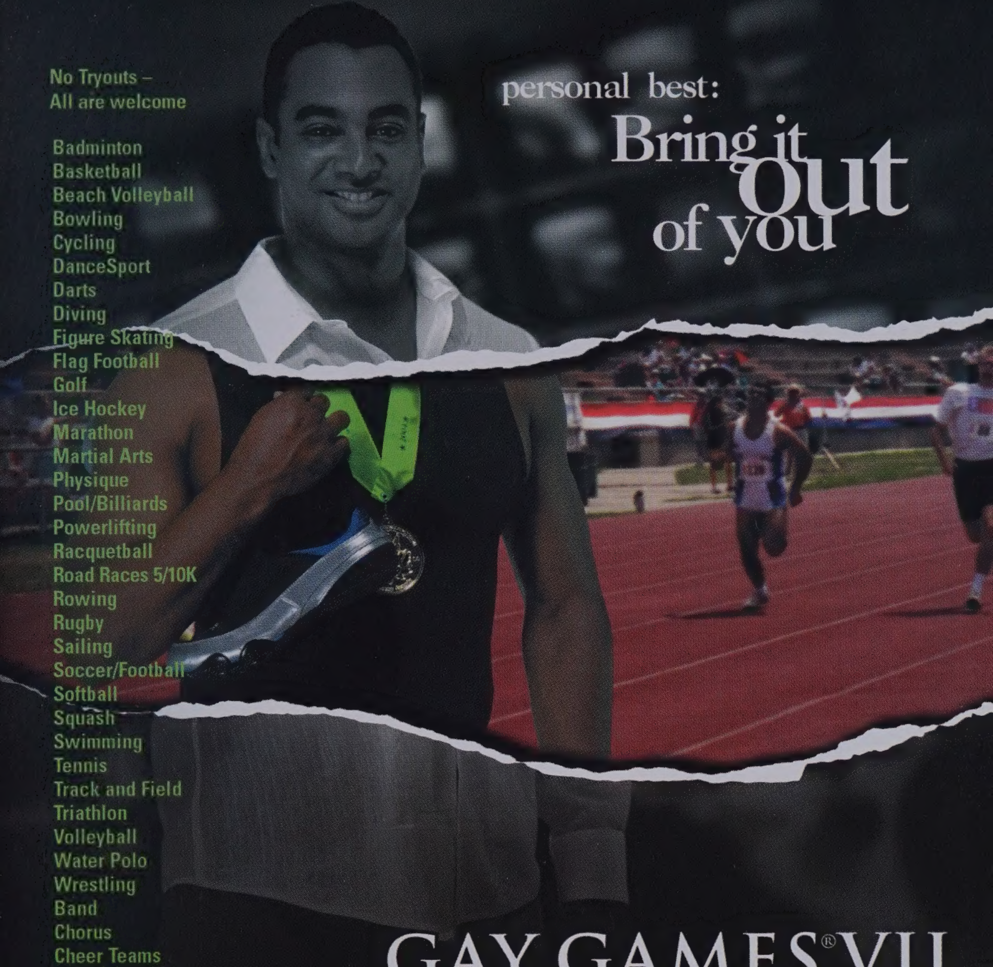
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OP-ED SUBMISSION BY CLEO MANAGO

On Luther Vandross, Gay-Identity and Black men. It's time that yawl get it!

This is article that was originally written to the Washington Blade. They are 1 of 6 publications that printed an article on Luther the same story. Those publications owned by Window Media.

In two recent articles Blade writers referenced that Luther Vandross never identified as gay, and no well known African American has. I think it is time that the traditional, gay-identity biased lens on homosexuality be challenged. So that engagement of other ways of being and identifying can respectfully take place. I have spent time with Vandross. If he, like James Baldwin (who identified as homosexual, not gay), or my self, like so many Black men, do not identify as gay, then we are not! Similarly, if a homosexual woman does not identify as gay (a term conceived by often sexist and racist White homosexual males), but as lesbian, then she is not gay! I, personally, have never had qualms with my homosexuality. Yet, I have never resonated with gay culture, most of the White faces [still] representing gay, or with gay media or symbology (German triangles, Greek lambdas, a rainbow-flag with no Black stripe, etc.). Most of this is White or European in origin, and does not affirm me. Sure, a number of African Americans are less concerned about cultural affirmation and connection. They assimilate and accept whatever White folks or the mainstream decides. And there are people like me, millions, who are Black, bisexual or homosexual and just do not 'feel' 'gay' as relevant - at all - to who we are. Terms like same-gender-loving (SGL), homothug, homie-sexual and even the horrid "Down Low" were born out of Black people preferring to identify and embrace ourselves as homo/bi people of African descent.

One barely addressed (in traditional gay circles) factor regarding Black apprehension to gay-identify is that society provides little space that affirms same-gender-loving (SGL) Black folks. Gay culture certainly does not. For many of us tokenism or being a "special subject" ain't enough. Maybe if it had ever been clear to Luther that those asking "are you gay" would respectfully interpret how he loved in ways affirming of his culture and worldview, he may have been more responsive. Given the scandalous way in which he is being discussed in gay publications, following his death, why he would be apprehensive has been re-revealed. I relate to Vandross, in that, if and when someone asks me if I am gay. Without hesitation I say no. Because I am not.

When space is finally made for the authentic affirmation of human diversity, more people, Black people in this instance, may be compelled to "openly" tell our same-gender-love stories.

COMMENTS

I completely understand about not identifying with gay culture as it is represented in the media and in many folks minds. But when someone asks you if you are gay, and you say 'no' do you correct them to say 'I am same gender loving' or do you just walk away from or end the conversation?

If folks ask if I am gay, I say yes, despite the fact of how I disagree with how 'gay' is portrayed in this country and perhaps most of the world. But when I am asked this question, I answer the part of the question that is asking, 'who is it that I chose to love,' not the inference that I subscribe to gay pop culture. Anything less of an answer from me, I would feel as though I were deliberately being deceitful.

-Londell Jackson

In a way, it is deceitful but only in the eyes of the person asking the question. I say this because they hold certain assumptions about what 'gay' is. That it may or may not apply to you as an individual is irrelevant to them. People don't ask, 'are you gay' simply to find out if you sleep with men. They want to know if you are effeminate, if you drag, if you vogue, if you consider yourself 'less than a man', they

Cleo Manago is an activist, writer, instructor, musician, and social architect. Manago is the founder of the Black Men's Xchange (BMX), an 'Africentric' national communications clearinghouse and support system for the empowerment of Black men of diverse sexual/intimate expression. He is also founder of the African-American AIDS, Support-Services & Survival Institutes, Inc. (AMASSI) in Oakland and Inglewood, California.

want to know, pointedly, if you align yourself with a subculture that (for all intents and purposes) excludes you from most participation.

Refusing to take up the mantle of the word "gay" is oppositional. It's about claiming your identity for yourself. Most of the "straight" world thinks along very narrow lines, usually rooted in a white supremacist way of thinking. This means that whether they know it or not, they fundamentally don't understand choosing to call yourself anything other than "gay". Their assumption is that if you don't fit into the "straight" world, then you must fit into the "gay" world. Both those "worlds" are sustained by white folks, white interests. This is not inherently a bad thing, but what happens is that both "gay" and "straight" folks get confused if you want to have "a black same-gender loving" world. Because opposition to them is separatism. And that's offensive to them.

To be more direct in answering your question, no it is not deceitful. Because if you don't consider yourself to be a part of all the things that "gay" means to much of society, you have the right to redefine yourself. The problem with people thinking it's deceitful is because in this country there is a tendency to define things very narrowly and white folks (even otherwise wonderful nice liberal white folks) usually get to do all the defining and get thrown off when such definitions (which are fluid) are opposed.

There is nothing wrong with creating your own identity.

–Tyler Lewis

Throughout history we have always been forced to assimilate to "white" terms and their social constructs. Historically and in the present, the term "gay" has become associated with "white" because even though we all share a common oppression that stems from our sexual orientation, white people are still able to align with their race to hold positions of power. When all of a sudden they "gay community" starts a gay marriage rights movement and we are of use to them, they expect us to conform to the term "gay" even though we have strategically been excluded from the community from the very beginning. It is this expectation that frustrates me most.

Rather than conforming to their terms I offer the solution of re-defining what the term "gay" means for our communities so that we do not feel that we are yet again conforming to their standards and definitions "bestowed" upon us. I have many African American friends who are completely comfortable with their sexuality but still do not identify as "gay." I agree that we don't always have to have a "term or category" to define ourselves, but uniting around an identity that WE define and relate to can be empowering beyond belief. Being a South Asian "gay" (I still use the term loosely) man, I have seen the beginning of how powerful uniting around this identity can be as we define it. Our communities that are ordinarily divided by religion (Hindu's, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians) have broken their boundaries and borders to organize around a common experience. That is the power of identity. We can not scrap the concept of defining our experience all together. Otherwise we are isolated in the web of complexity that hinders our identity development as "gay" people of color. This entanglement has both an indirect and direct relationship to the depression, HIV, and health outcomes that infringe our communities disproportionately.

with love - **Harnik Gulati**

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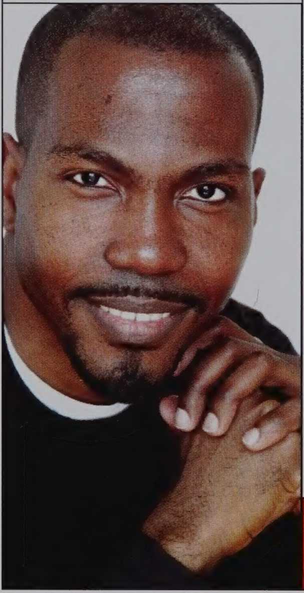
BY: HERNDON L. DAVIS

GOD IS A REPUBLICAN — AND — JESUS IS A DEMOCRAT

Insiders from within the Kingdom of Heaven report that there,s been a rift in the family of divinity, which threatens to literally tear its earthy family apart. Apparently, the patriarch of life, the most High Father himself, God, has recently aligned himself with staunch political conservatives and is now believed to be a card caring member of the GOP.

However, God,s son, Jesus is rumored to be more of a moderate liberal and has wrapped himself tightly in a blue democratic cloth, standing for a kindler, gentler and more progressive tone across the world. Their stark differences of political beliefs has caused a rumble in heaven as witnessed by several severe weather patterns occurring across the world.



Angels in heaven are reportedly taking sides as this Father-Son feud continues to escalate on issues concerning homosexuality, gay rights, abortion, reproductive rights, the Iraq War, safe-sex education in public schools, social security overhaul, judicial appointments, affirmative action, and women in the clergy, among several other political/spiritual hot buttons.

This clear split in ideology and political affiliations of God and Jesus is rumored to have been caused by an elite and empowered group of earthly clergyman, businessmen, career politicians, and higher income bracket individuals. They pray, worship, and aggressively hold on to literal beliefs of Old Testament teachings where God is described as being firm, decisive, strict, and black-and-white with no room for gray while bathing themselves in the New Testament with Jesus, blood of redemption and unconditional love for themselves.

Meanwhile, formerly oppressed groups such a blacks, women, gays/lesbians, and the financially and socially impoverished, oten pray, worship and aggressively embrace spiritual teachings of the New Testament of Jesus; a figure who stood for liberation, social justice, compassion, and unconditional love for everyone regardless of race, gender, income, or sexual orientation.

Both groups have been lobbying and petitioning God and Jesus separately, not really realizing that they,re one in the same. In addition, both groups claim to be doing the will of this heavenly Father-Son duo, but actually what has resulted is a deeply divided nation of blue and red states on nearly every socioeconomic issue known to man.

A series of peace talks between God and Jesus is being mediated by the Holy Spirit early next week to determine how best the world should apply their joint teachings, inclusive of both Testaments so that individuals are able to seek and understand the spiritual meaning of their collective word.

Even further, another priority during the God-Jesus conference, will be to strategize how best to educate clergy and laity alike on how to interpret scripture within its original 1st and 2nd century culture and language.

As yet another election year draws closer, the Angels in heaven are making repairs in heaven from the damage done by its earthly conservative family members, attempted divide and conquer invasion.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, one Angel is quoted as saying „if people of faith down there don,t get right soon, there will be hell to pay!‰

Herndon Davis is author of the inspirational/spirituality book, Black Gay & Christian as well as its follow-up, "Black Gay Spiritual Warfare" scheduled for release in Fall 2005. He has been spotlighted, highlighted, and profiled nationally and internationally in television, radio, print and internet media.

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BY MARY ROWLAND

What you need to know about the most basic estate planning document

What happens if I die without a will?

If you don't make a will or use some other legal method to transfer your property when you die, state law will determine what happens to your property. Generally, it will go to your spouse and children or, if you have neither, to your other closest relatives. (If you are part of an unmarried same-sex couple, the survivor will not inherit anything unless you live in one of the few states that allows registered domestic partners to inherit like spouses: California, Maine, and Vermont.) If no relatives can be found to inherit your property, it will go into your state's coffers.

In addition, in the absence of a will, a court will determine who will care for your young children and their property if the other parent is unavailable or unfit.

Do I need a lawyer to make my will?

Probably not. Making a will rarely involves complicated legal rules, and most people can draft their own will with the aid of a good self-help book or software program. You just need to know what you own and who you care about, and have a good self-help resource to guide you.

But if you have questions that aren't answered by the resource you're relying on, it's worth it to see a good lawyer. You don't have to turn over the whole project; simply ask your questions and then finish making your own will.

I don't have much property. Can't I just make a handwritten will?

Handwritten, unwitnessed wills, called "holographic" wills, are legal in about 25 states. To be valid, a holographic will must be written and signed in the handwriting of the person making the will; in some states it must also be dated. Some states allow you to use a fill-in-the-blanks form if the rest of the will is handwritten and the will is properly dated and signed.

A holographic will is better than nothing if it's valid in your state. But a will signed in front of witnesses is better. If a holographic will goes before a probate court, the court may be unusually strict when examining it to be sure it's legitimate. And if you don't have guidance -- from a good self-help resource or a good lawyer -- it's easy to write something that turns out to be ambiguous or even contrary to what you intended.

Can I use my will to name somebody to care for my young children in case someday I can't?

Yes. If both parents of a child die while the child is still a minor, another adult -- called a "personal guardian" -- must step in. The personal guardian will be responsible for raising your children until they become legal adults.

You and the child's other parent can use your wills to nominate someone to fill this position. To avert conflicts, you should each name the same person. If a guardian is needed, a judge will appoint your nominee as long as he or she agrees that it is in the best interest of your children.

What makes a will legal?

Any adult of sound mind is entitled to make a will. Beyond that, there are just a few technical requirements a will must fulfill:

- The document must expressly state that it's your will.
- You must date and sign the will.
- The will must be signed by at least two, or in Vermont, three, witnesses. The witnesses must watch you sign the will, though they don't need to read it. Your witnesses, in most states, must be people who won't inherit anything under the will. (If your state allows "holographic" wills, you don't need witnesses.

You don't have to have your will notarized. In many states, though, if you and your witnesses sign an affidavit (sworn statement) before a notary public, you can help simplify the court procedures required to prove the validity of the will after you die.

Can I leave property to young children in my will?

Children under 18 can inherit property -- but if it's anything valuable, an adult must manage it for them. You can use your will to name someone to manage property you leave to minors, avoiding the need for a court to appoint and supervise a guardian. Here are four simple ways to structure a property management arrangement:

1 Name a custodian under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act. In every state except South Carolina and Vermont, you can choose someone, called a custodian, to manage property you are leaving to a child. The custodian will step in to manage the property until the child reaches the age specified by your state's law -- 18 in a few states, 21 in most, 25 in several others.

2 Set up a trust for each child. You can use your will to create a trust for any property the child inherits, and name someone (called a trustee), to handle the trust property until the child reaches the age you specify.

3 Set up a "pot trust." If you have more than one child, you may want to set up just one trust for all of them. This arrange-

ment is usually called a pot trust. The trustee decides what each child needs, and spends money accordingly.

5 Name a property guardian. If you simply name a property guardian for your child, this person will manage whatever property the child inherits, if there's no other mechanism (a trust, for example) to handle it.

Must my will leave something to my spouse and children?

Disinheriting spouses. The law protects surviving spouses from being left with nothing. If you live in a community property state (Alaska (only if you have made a written community property agreement), Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin), your spouse automatically owns half of all the property and earnings (with a few exceptions) acquired by either of you during your marriage. You can leave your half of the community property, and your separate property, to anyone you choose.

In all other states, a surviving spouse has a legal right to claim a portion of your estate, no matter what your will provides. But these provisions kick in only if your spouse goes to court and claims that share.

If you don't plan to leave at least half of your property to your spouse, either through your will or outside it, you should consult a lawyer -- unless your spouse willingly consents in writing to your plan.

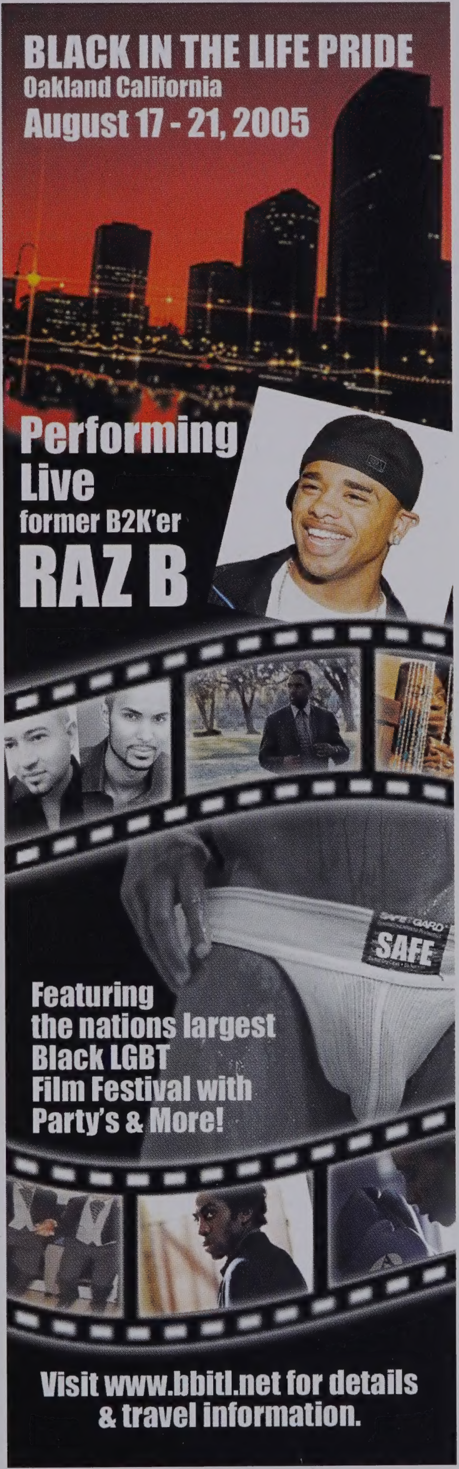
Disinheriting children. Generally, it's perfectly legal to disinherit a child. If, however, it appears that you didn't mean to disinherit a child -- the most common example is a child born after you made your will -- then the child has the right to claim part of your property. Some states go further. For example, the Florida Constitution prohibits the head of a family from leaving his residence to anyone other than a spouse if he is survived by a spouse or minor child.

Do I need to file my will with a court or in public records somewhere?

No. A will doesn't need to be recorded or filed with any government agency, although it can be in a few states. Just keep your will in a safe, accessible place and be sure the person in charge of winding up your affairs (your executor) knows where it is.

Can someone challenge my will after I die?

Very few wills are ever challenged in court. When they are, it's usually by a close relative who feels somehow cheated out of a share of the deceased person's property. To get an entire will invalidated, someone must go to court and prove that it suffers from a fatal flaw: the signature was forged, you weren't of sound mind when you made the will, or you were unduly influenced by someone.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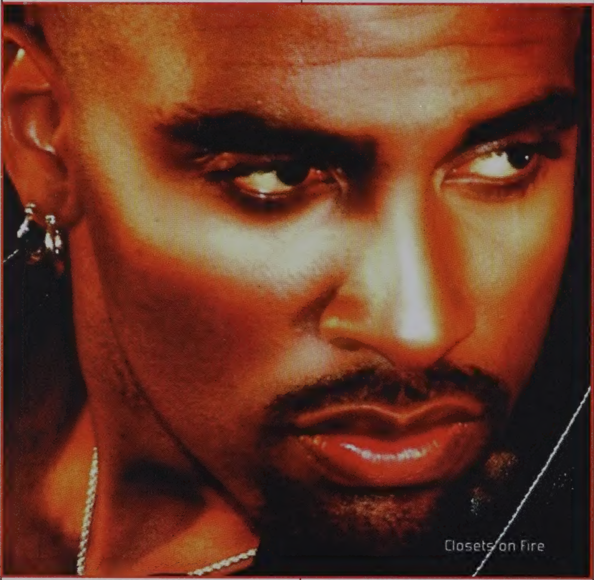
Anthony Antoine

– CLOSETS ON FIRE –

Flameboi Records/Independent Artist Takes On Atlanta and America

The premiere jewel of unsigned and independent artists, Anthony Antoine is taking his music and mission to another level with the release of his groundbreaking CD Closets On Fire. Newark, New Jersey native Anthony Antoine , which is his birth-given first and middle name is delivering a compelling first full-length effort that celebrates themes of unabashed sexuality and empowerment all while encouraging dance to overcome adversity. The result is radio and club ready hits sure to lead to major Billboard success.



On Closets On Fire and the EP supporting the CD, Songs From My Closet , Anthony Antoine tackles a host of issues and boldly promotes experiences often not addressed in popular music. With influences including the songwriting skills of Babyface to the courage and musical activism of Me'Shelle Ndegeocello or Madonna, Anthony 's music has been described as a voice for a silenced community, a substantial record buying community who want to hear songs that reflect the morale and spirit of which they live.

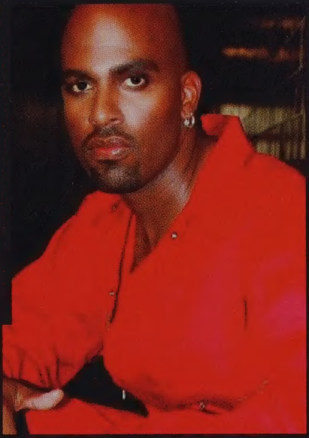
Currently living in Atlanta, Anthony has been producing music now for over ten years and "performing since birth" he laughs and has had time to develop his craft while establishing a personal internal integrity that now reflects within his songs. In the hip-hop era of "keepin' it real" and against scores of new artists that are mere reproductions ofother artists, Antoine "keeps it real" like too few artist before him. Anthony Antoine has found his audience by self-producing and distributing his own music without record label dollars and support. The result is an unfiltered truth and innovation of popular music clearly ready for major label distribution and sales.

The self-proclaimed child of eighties music began his industry career after a gutsy move to London, England at the age of seventeen. "I wanted to create a story to tell for my life similar to young Madonna's move to New York." His move, what Anthony considers his "college years", placed him immediately in the heart of London's music scene where Anthony became a top session vocalist. Anthony worked with some of London's best including Paul Hardcastle, producer of the Billboard Top 20 hit "19" and Anthony 's first single, "Swing" by The Deff Boyz featuring Tony Mac: one of Anthony 's pseudonyms derived from players of the European music scene insisting that the American boy with the American accent in London should rap. "Swing" became an international dance club hit charting Top 40 on Billboard's Dance Chart and broke Top 40 on numerous European charts.

Over the next few years, Anthony lived much of his dreams of pop stardom becoming a recognizable artist in Europe releasing two more singles under the pseudonym Truth Anthony: his first, independent ZYX Record's EP release What's Goin' Down , and the jazz influenced, Island Records' single "Under Your Spell" with London based international jazz artist Ronny Jordan. With songs in radio rotation, videos on MTV and a strenuous European tour schedule including opening act for C&C Music Factory, Anthony considers these years of his career as laying the foundation for his home in the music industry today.

After six years in Europe, Anthony returned to the United States where these "college years" in London, and his subsequent graduating with honors from The Art Institute in Dallas, laid the seeds for the artist he is today. The initial capture of Anthony 's new outlook in life and song became most apparent in his fourth and most ambitious effort "Dante's Got A Man Too." Similar to the spirit that energized James Brown, Aretha Franklin and so much music that paralleled the Black Struggle in the 60's, Anthony's fourth release plays like a soundtrack of triumph in the face of his experienced life adversity. That spirit continues with the already released Songs From My Closet and the spring 2004 release of Closets on Fire , Anthony Antoine 's dream CD three years in the making.

Closets On Fire 's opening song "Raise" encourage listeners to grab the freedom that will release oppression in one's life. "The Consequence" asks a deceptive girlfriend what should be the consequence of cheating as he suggests making her body disappear forever as did his hopes and dreams of their now-failed relationship. Anthony's favorite on the CD, "Curiosity and The Hennessey" plays with a lover that uses intoxication, not sexuality as an excuse for habitual sex drive-bys. A highlight of the CD is the throw-back and infectious grove, "I Got The Moves". Anthony recorded this song with his baby's momma and lifetime best friend DanaLee singing the vocal hook, and their daughter Vogue Ashley doing an impressive guest rap vocal. It's a family affair jam and a testament to the integrity of Anthony Antoine as a man and an artist.



"I'm recording the album that I've always wanted to record: energetic, empowering, emotional and hit songs from start to finish." Anthony Antoine proudly explains this project as "me on CD. I'm using music to tell my story. Everyone, regardless of our differences, will be able to find something that resonates with him or her on this project."

If music is the universal language then this not-so-new artist Anthony Antoine speaks it fluently with Closets On Fire , the innovative CD revealing songs cleverly designed to find its unique space in music history but packaged and promoted in a way that is accessible to today's sophisticated music consumer

Clikque Has 18 Questions for Independent Recording Artist and Atlanta's Own Anthony Antoine

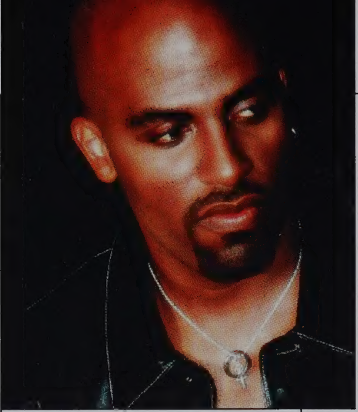
Why 18 Questions? It mirrors how many songs are on his new CD "Closets on Fire." Anthony explains, "there's a song for every year that a full length CD effort was my goal. 18 is my magic number right now."

1. WHERE ARE YOU FROM? I'm a Brick City baby. Newark's(NJ)in the house! But Atlanta is home.

2. WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? Hang out with my daughter Vogue and her friends. A great day for me is taking her to the movies or us chilling in the house together watching old episodes of American Idol.

ON FIRE CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

CLOSETS ON FIRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28



3. GOING TO MOVIES OR BLOCKBUSTER NIGHTS? It's the movies when I'm hanging with my crew of friends but I would always choose a Blockbuster night to get intimate. Actually, what do we need a movie for when we can create one of our own, that's the best nights.

4. Boxers or briefs? Neither really. Most days, I just like to hang. But I love underwear when dressing up. I especially love a pair of white Calvin Klein boxers, makes me feel clean and sanctified.

5. WHICH DECADE OF MUSIC DO YOU PREFER, THE 80'S, 90'S OR NOW? 80's Music was the best! I love music videos, synth music, Michael and Janet Jackson. And Sheila E. with "The Glamorous Life" album is from the 80's so surely 80's music is my favorite.

6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEAL? Seafood or the first single from "Closets on Fire." *wink*

7. WHAT ANIMAL CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR PERSONALITY? WHY? A puppy pitbull, cute and cuddly but can be trained to fight if necessary.

8. WHAT SUPERHERO CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR PERSONALITY? WHY? Wonder Woman because she ruled with the male superheroes effortlessly and I think women and gay men have a lot in common, especially in our struggle for social justice. My mom is a real life Wonder Woman and I strive to be a lot like my mom.

9. NAME 3 TV SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE TO WATCH? Will and Grace, Sex and the City and American Idol Season 3.

10. WHAT IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE? Use to be "Set It Off" but Quinton rocked that with "Kill Bill Vol. 1."

11. YOU'RE STUCK ON AN ABANDONED ISLAND, WHAT 4 THINGS DO YOU TAKE WITH YOU? My new CD "Closets on Fire" to remember a huge life accomplishment, my Jennifer Hudson (AI Season 3) demos *wait til you hear these songs - this girl is our time's best vocalist*, nude photos (Raz B of B2K, Lenny Kravitz, Dennis Rodman) to help with the lonely nights on an abandoned island and a picture of my daughter Vogue to remember the love of my life.

12. WHAT ARE 2 OF YOUR FAVORITE ALBUMS? Aretha Franklin's "Sparkle" and Stevie Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life." This music is timeless.

13. WHAT PERSON LIVING OR DEAD WOULD YOU WANT TO HAVE A SITDOWN DISCUSSION WITH? It would have to be Oprah Winfrey or Luther Vandross. I've had sit down discussions with many people that I thought I never would, Sheila E. included which use to be my answer to this question. But it seriously hurts my heart that I never had a "kee-kee" with Luther.

14. WHY SHOULD WE BUY YOUR NEW CD? It's passionate music FUBU - for us, by us. It's a testimony that dreams do come true. I've worked for 18 years to have a full length CD and I continue to get my hustle on when it comes to producing and promoting songs created for us. It's not often that we will have a chance to support our own. And these songs speak to our lives, our experiences without changing pronouns. And it's good music, a damn good CD.

15. IF YOU WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU'D DO?
I'd ship all homophobes to fight the war in Iraq and bring our troops home, legalize all gay marriages and make gay marriage constitutional and have a mandatory investigation and recount of American Idol's Season Three votes. Fantasia - I love you but Jennifer Hudson is on the way!

16. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO GET INTO THE RECORDING GAME? "You can do you better than anyone. So do you! We don't need another R.Kelly or Beyonce. Do you, cause no one can do you better. There's only one Anthony Antoine."

17. WHAT'S YOU'RE FAVORITE QUOTE? "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, but must be demanded by the oppressed," Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated. And my close friend Craig Washington states on my new CD "Closets on Fire" that "People are never really ready, the larger society is never really ready for social change. You just have to grab it, seize it, take it. And people will get ready, people will catch up." Both of these quotes motivate me as an artist and inspires why I do what I do in music.

18. HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND? There's a performance or two lined up independently and with The Adodi Muse. Naturally, there's a number of clubs to attend and selling my new CD "Closets on Fire" will occur all weekend. But most importantly, I'll be marching on Monday in The Stand Up and Represent March. It's year five for the march and this will surely be the highlight of my weekend.

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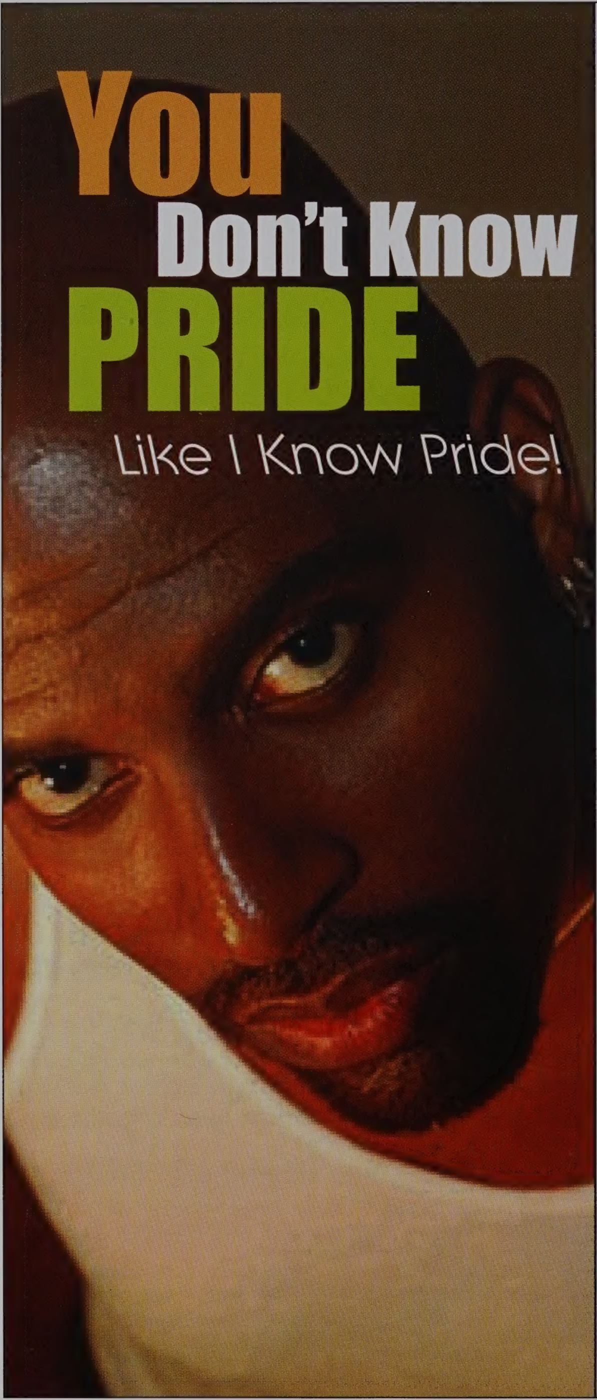
ARTICLE BY ANTHONY ANTOINE

You Don't Know PRIDE

Like I Know Pride!



A weekend's worth of outfits planned - many of them new, gym memberships renewed and used, dollars begged, borrowed and spent, potential love interests dismissed or at least thwarted in preparation for the biggest, most important weekend of all of our lives - Black Gay Pride Weekend. Bigger than any terrorist attack, more important than our birthdays and a much larger turnout than the Presidential Elections. Trust, many more of us showed up outside Traxx last Saturday night than we did at the polls. As I type at my computer on the Thursday after (three days of recuperation) in a T-shirt that reads, "I SURVIVED BLACK GAY PRIDE WEEKEND IN ATLANTA," memorabilia from my first commemoration here in 1995, five celebrations later, I wonder, are we really celebrating Black Gay Pride?

I thought, maybe I need to get an official definition of pride to settle my concern and so I searched Encarta, which shared definitions that troubled me. "The correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements," it read. Hmmm! Interesting! Troubling!

Then I remembered my early celebrations, where I lost count of the many phone numbers I had collected over the weekend. Don't act brand new! Yes, I kept count. Didn't we all keep count? There's a sport to collecting numbers, rules taught to me by my first gay mentors in Dallas. Loosing count was an immediate ten-point deduction from your total score of self-esteem. And what better time to garner self-esteem points than on Black Gay Pride Weekend, a time when a smorgasbord of men with phone numbers is before you. Out of town numbers are doubled bonus points adding to your self-worth and personal character. Everyone knows, the more numbers you collect, the worthier you are. That's elementary rules straight out of The Official Rules Book of Celebrating Black Gay Pride.

Combing the pages of additional rules, you'll find "Never Bring Sand to the Beach," "Never Wear an Outfit Twice, "Two Outfits Per Day," "Never Commit to Spending The Night with Someone Before

PRIDE CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

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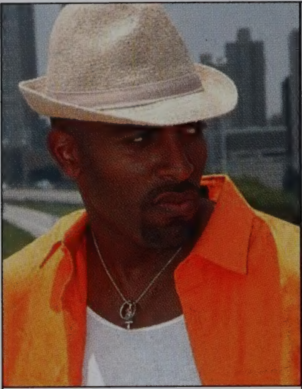
PRIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30



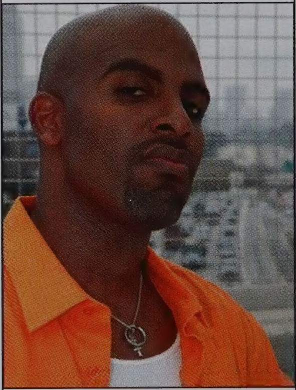
Midnight," and the entire chapter on "Sex." One nameless friend uses a scheduling book every pride celebration. This year alone, he counted eleven "sessions" over four days. The six o'clock must be gone by eight o'clock leaving enough time for another arrival at nine - and a shower, I hope.

"A weekend full of empty promises, empty spirit, and empty pockets," another friend who decided to leave town described the weekend. I remember feeling sad after we talked about it and I realized that even I had adopted some of the anxiety surrounding Atlanta's Labor Day weekend. My sadness was encouraged by many of my black gay brothas and sistas experiencing a huge "let-down" from the weekend, somehow believing that the Black Gay Pride celebration would unfold this magic that would save us from the rest of our uneventful lives. Years of experiencing this "let-down" will have us all leaving town during Black Gay Pride weekends.

Black Gay Pride weekend! Black Gay Pride celebration! These were our lessons. This is what I was taught about Black Gay Pride and the effervescent weekend.

But this year, something changed. Somehow, without a conscious effort, I've just lived the best Black Gay Pride weekend of my life. What was different for me this year? I realized that my weekend was no longer just about clubs, boys and sex but about a connection to a community. I really don't know the beginning of the metamorphosis but I thank God for it. I thank ITLA for it. I thank the men who attended Second Sunday and those that utilized AID Atlanta's services. Don't get me wrong. I used my job at AID Atlanta as an excuse to "work" the lobby, the runway of the host hotel and Boris (my truck) honked at all the cute black gay folks as we drove by. I asked Boris not to be so obvious about his excitement that so many black gays and lesbians had taken over Hotlanta. But my primary goal for being at the host hotel was to test people for HIV and that made me feel proud.

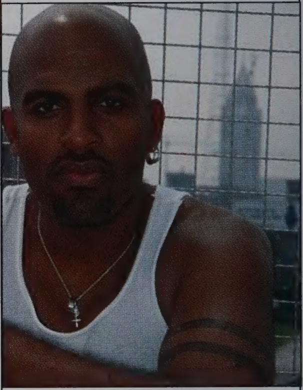
Clearly, something had changed. In the years pasts, being away from the club would make me feel empty. Now I feel empty for my friends who were missing the workshops, business networking, performances, poetry events, bonding and friendship - the true celebrations of the weekend. Most of my good friends celebrated in the same-ole way we have every year, make it home at 5 am, sleep until 5pm, eat, quick work-out and then off to the club. Now, if this is your only pride celebration, you can deduct ten points from your total score of self-esteem.



I feel Pride! I lived and continue to live Pride! I am PROUD! Another Encarta definition for the word "pride" is the spirit motivating me, why I'm writing this today. "The happy, satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire," it read. For those who have asked, search, and begged for a true celebration of Black Gay Pride, I offer you this and a few websites for future reference.

I've just lived the best Black Gay Pride weekend of my life and it wasn't because of the clubs, parties or the boys but because I am now connected to a community, a LGBTQ COMMUNITY of people that love and affirm who I am as a black gay man. I collected not one phone number this year and my self-esteem flourishes. Watching Shane Johnson tear up as 400 black gay marchers and supporters culminated onto West End Park for The Stand Up and Represent March was better than sex. And I believe I've had the best sex known to two (or three or four) men.

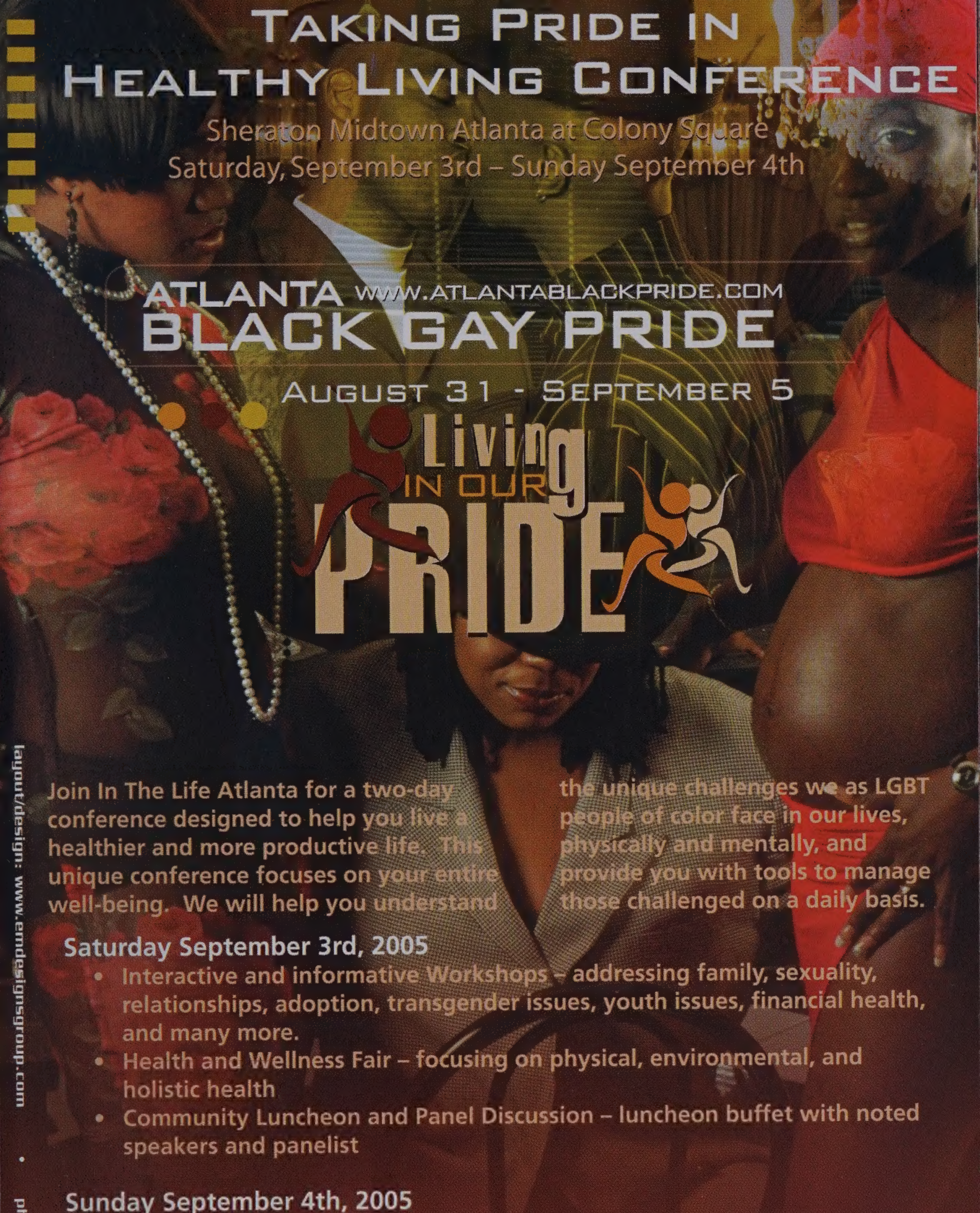
All in the spirit of what I now know and embrace to be black gay PRIDE, I partied this year, partied so hard that I was tired and in bed by eleven each night. If you missed this celebration of Black Gay Pride, you truly missed the celebration. If blessings allow, you'll have another opportunity next year. Like my momma said, "If you keep doing what you've always done, you'll keep getting what you've always gotten." And somebody's grand momma said, "When you know better, you do better." I'm inviting you to a true celebration of pride, one that won't leave you confused about what we've celebrated, one where you can't help but to feel PRIDE, true Black Gay PRIDE.



How will you celebrate Black Gay Pride? Trust me on this, the best Black Gay Pride weekend will unfold for you when you celebrate your pride all year round. And this celebration doesn't even preclude you from making it to The Lion's Den before the crowd kicks in.

TAKING PRIDE IN HEALTHY LIVING CONFERENCE

Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square
Saturday, September 3rd – Sunday September 4th



ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

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AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

Living IN OUR PRIDE

Join In The Life Atlanta for a two-day conference designed to help you live a healthier and more productive life. This unique conference focuses on your entire well-being. We will help you understand the unique challenges we as LGBT people of color face in our lives, physically and mentally, and provide you with tools to manage those challenged on a daily basis.

Saturday September 3rd, 2005

- Interactive and informative Workshops – addressing family, sexuality, relationships, adoption, transgender issues, youth issues, financial health, and many more.
- Health and Wellness Fair – focusing on physical, environmental, and holistic health
- Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion – luncheon buffet with noted speakers and panelist

Sunday September 4th, 2005

- Continuation of Workshops
- Interfaith Worship Service
- Jazz Brunch

Event Partners: Dekalb County Board of Health, Fulton County Health Department, Georgia State Department of Human Resources – PAUSE Campaign

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DON'T MISS THE LARGES

ATLANTA WWW.ATLANTABLACKPRIDE.COM
BLACK GAY PRIDE

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

IN THE WORLD!

Wednesday, August 31st, 2005
- Registration Begins – Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel at Colony Square

Thursday, September 1st
- Candlelight Vigil
- Annual GLBT Career Fair & Technol
ogy Center Expo

Friday, September 2nd
- Annual GLBT Career Fair & Technol
ogy Center Expo
- VIP Reception
- Welcome Reception and Opening Ceremony Celebration
- Black Pride Market Place presentec
by ID Lube
- SpeakFire! – an evening of erotic open mic poetry and personal expression (Midnight)
- La Gender Drag Show
- Technology Lounge

Saturday, September 3rd
- Taking Pride in Healthy Living Conference Day 1

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Living
IN OUR
PRIDE

- Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion
- Workshop Series Day 1
- Health and Wellness Fair

- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- 2005 Poetry Slam
- See Us In The Life Film Festival
- Punany Poets presents "Head Doctor"
- Technology Lounge

Sunday, September 4th

- Interfaith Worship Service
- Jazz Brunch with live Jazz performances by local artists
- Taking Pride in Healthy Living Conference Day 1
- Literary Café
- The Dating Game presented by Together In Love
- Black Pride Fashion Show Extravaganza
- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- Technology Lounge

Monday, September 5th

- Stand up and Represent Black Pride March (from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center to the Georgia State Capitol Building)

Visit our website at www.atlantablackpride.com for complete and up to date listing of events and activities

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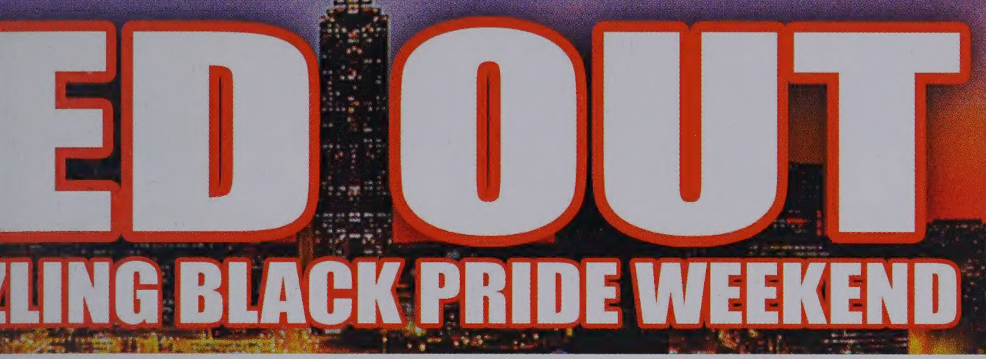

AUG. 31ST - SEPT. 7TH

Sizzling Black Pride Weekend Line Up...

WEDNESDAY 8/31 & 9/7
"MINI BALL WEDNESDAY"
Hosted by: Andre Givenchy

THURSDAY 9/1
"The Arrival of the THUGS and the LADIES who like to party with the THUGS.
CLUB 708: DJ JFK Atl. • CLUB 714: DJ Goose, ATL
FREE B4 11:30pm • 10pm - 5:30am

FRIDAY 9/2
THUGGED OUT BLACK-OUT FRIDAY
1 Whole Block, 1 Huge Building
3 Big Ass Clubs (Inside Entry to All 3 Clubs)
CLUB 708: DJ JFK Atl. • CLUB 714: DJ GOOSE, ATL CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SATURDAY 9/3
"THUGS 'N' DA HOOD"
1 Whole Block, 1 Huge Building
3 Big Ass Clubs (Inside Entry to All 3 Clubs)
CLUB 708: DJ JFK ATL. • CLUB 714: DJ Goose, ATL
CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SUNDAY 9/4
"THUGS NIGHT OUT" The After Party
@ 708 we party 'til the sun comes up
CLUB 708: DJ JFK ATL. • CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
10pm - 6am, all other clubs close at 2:45am

MONDAY 9/5
"THUG-FEST IN PIEDMONT PARK"
The Biggest Concert in Black Prides History
Performing Live: Crime Mobb • Maceo • D4L • Jara Rasheeda • Boyz n Da Hood • The Incredibles & more.
Hosted By: "Slyman & Dirty South"
BET Comic View • (DJ JFK ATL)
Gates Open @ 2pm, Showtime @ 5pm

MONDAY 9/5
"THUG-FEST MELT DOWN"
Variety Show @ CLUB 708
Calling all Singers, Rappers, Dancers
Whatever Your Talent is:
$1000.00 Grand Prize to the winner
Hosted by: "Slyman & Black Stallion"
BET Comic View
(DJ JFK ATL)
10pm - 5am

TUESDAY 9/6
"THE ILLUSION"
Hosted by: Dee Franklin Thomas & Lady T
Cash Prizes To Be Awarded
Male and Females Dancers
Contact: Deidre Black (678)558-9169
DJ GOOSE, ATL)
Doors Open @ 10pm

4 BIG ROOMS • 3 LEVELS
2 DANCE FLOORS
1 HUGE ASS CLUB!!!

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Official Carrier: DELTA AIRLINES • Reservation#: (800)221-1212
Official RENT-A-CAR • Reservation number: (800) 654-2240 • Code: CV022Q2364
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Official Gym: METROPOLITAN FITNESS (Formerly RUN "N" SHOOT)
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ATLANTA'S BLACK PRIDE 2005

Saturday Sept. 3rd - Tuesday, Sept. 6th

"Lets see who will be left standing!!!"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

THE KNOCKOUT

"Can you take the blow?"

@ Atlanta Live • 3595 Clairmont Rd

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hardest and most ferocious beats pulsating through 55,000 watts of power generated by the nation's most requested DJ's

Hot 107.9's DJ Truz
The District Mother - DJ Sederick & DJ Meistro
Spinning Hip-Hop, House, Reggae and R&B
Also featuring our alluring world class Go Go Dancers
Gracing 3 Dramatic Stages

Doors Open @ 12 Noon, Sat., Sept. 3rd
Doors Close @ 12 Noon, Sun., Sept. 4th
Bar Stays Open All Day & Night
CAN YOU LAST 24 HOURS?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

TKO

"We are going to hit you hard!!!"

5479 Memorial Drive • (770)912-2992
Traxx 1st Official Indoor Pool Party
Featuring our Nationally Renowned Hot Boy Contest!
Come and get Wet & Wild with over 1,000 goregous men splashing in 2 indoor pools with waves crashing to hip hop and house beats created by:
DJ Meistro & DJ Keith Stephens

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

TRAXX in association with
ATLANTA'S BLACK GAY PRIDE
Nightclubs, Promoters, and Sponsors
- presents -

THE UNITY PICNIC

Free Food, Hot Music & One hell of a Good Time
Location: TBA

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

THE CONTENDER

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Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn with hard hitting Hip Hop beats produced by:

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AVAILABLE AT inthelifeatl.com
AND OUR COUNTDOWN TO
PRIDE PARTIES EVERY TUESDAY
IN AUGUST!! BE HERE

BULLDOGS BULLD

wednesday aug. 31

first encounter

pre-party with the first arrivals
dj andre brown

thursday sept. 1

foreplay

the hottest welcome party to atlanta
stimulating sight, sound and feel
dj jazz
plus the first 100 customers after 8pm
get a free bulldogs black pride tee!!!

friday sept. 2

tantalize

sexy hot bodies moving in a groove
dj jazz

DE LABOR DAY

saturday sept. 3

desire

urge toward complete enjoyment
4pm to 8pm onyx - after dj andre brown
THICCBOI PRODUCTIONS 4th annual
big boy meet & greet - hosted by
stan and ej from 5pm to 8pm

sunday sept. 4

climax

the extreme party of full sensual fulfillment
cookout on our big deck at 6pm
special holiday hours - open till 3 *am*
dj andre brown

monday sept. 5

naked

take your *shirt off*, get in *free*
cookout on tour party deck at 6pm
dj jazz

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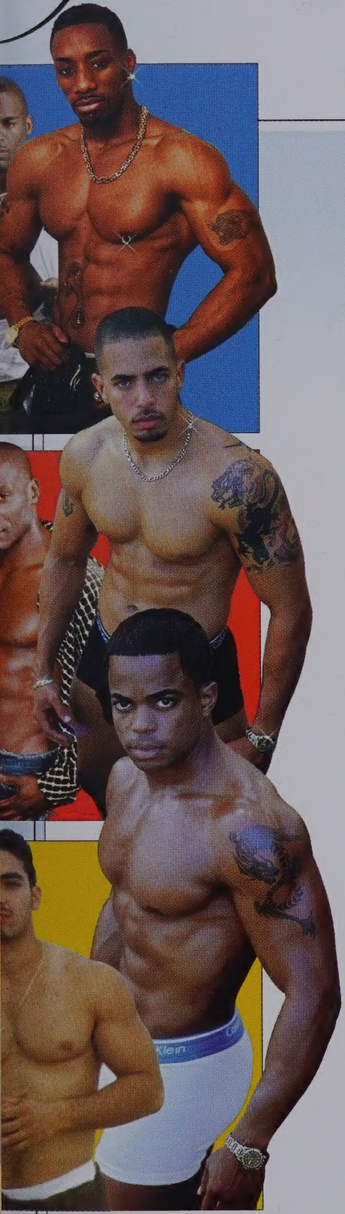
with the Divas



Monday:
Stars of The Century
@ The Jungle
2115 Faulkner Rd

Wednesday:
Stripper Showdown
@ The Imperial
5395 Jimmy Carter Blvd.

Thursday:
All For One Night
@ CoCo LoCo
1296 Morland Ave

Friday:
Hot Papi Night
@ The Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy.

Saturday:
Grown Folks Party
@ Knights Hall
2620 Buford Hwy.

Sunday:
Legendary Hip-Hop Night
@ The Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy

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Thursday, September 1, 2005

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PHASE ONE
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Doors Open 10:00 p.m. - Until - Showtime: 12:00 a.m.

Friday, September 2, 2005

MANHUNT FRIDAY'S

(2 BUILDINGS FOR 1 BIG PARTY)

HIP HOP & HOUSE MUSIC ALL NITE LONG

COME CHECK OUT THE HOTTEST MALE PARTY IN THE ATL,
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with Host MC BUSTA LUV
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And You Don't Want To Miss....

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For Directions Call 404.477.0404

$2,000.00 GRAND PRIZE

WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL DANCERS TO COMPETE, IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES CALL 866.35.OZONE

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Announcing!

The Lion's Den - Labor Day

Friday, 09.02.05 - 6:30PM - 10:00PM
The Lion's Den Welcome to Atlanta Reception
The Sheraton Hotel Buckhead (Directly Across From Lenox Mall)
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MEET & GREET WITH SOME OF THE MOST PROLIFIC
AFRICAN AMERICAN GAY AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS OF THE YEAR!!
Featuring
- Keith Boykin (Best Selling Author) - "Beyond The Down Low"
- J.L. King (Best Selling Author) - "On The Down Low"
- James Earl Hardy (Best Selling Author) - "A House Is Not A Home"
- Walter Wright (Self-Published Author) - "One Night Stand"
- Belasco (Internationally Known Erotic Illustrator) - "The Brothers of New Essex"
- Complimentary Buffet / Drink Specials / Music / Various Vendors
- Give-aways / Prizes / Lion's Den Calendar Models

Saturday, 09.03.05 - 6:30PM - Until
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- The Ultimate DJ Squad
- The Lion's Den Hot Body Contest - $300 Cash Prize
- Various Vendors / Give-aways / Prizes

Sunday, 09.04.05 - 8:00PM - Until
The Lion's Den – Earthquake Party
Visit www.thelionsdenatlanta.com for Party Location
Info Hot Line: (770) 991-6929
WE'RE ABOUT TO SHAKE IT UP IN HERE!!
Featuring
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Monday, 09.05.05 - 10:00PM - Until
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- The Ultimate DJ Squad
- Various Vendors / Give-aways / Prizes

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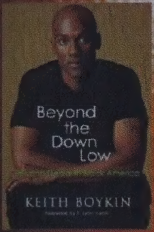
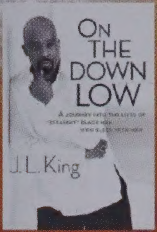
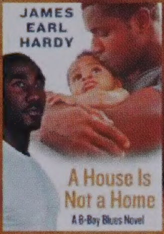
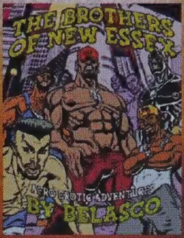
Weekend Mega Party Events


Beyond the Down Low
KEITH BOYKIN


On the Down Low
J.L. King


JAMES EARL HARDY
A House Is Not a Home
A B-Boy Blues Novel

One Night Stand
Walter Wright


THE BROTHERS OF NEW ESSEX
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Fullsize - $22.39 per day – Reservation Code (XTREME/13126711US3)
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Reservation Requirements: Must be 25 years of age, must possess a valid drivers license, and a major credit card. Rental Rates good from September 1st thru September 5th. Rates are only valid for pick up at Avis-Buckhead. Vehicle may be dropped off at Avis-Downtown or Avis @ Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

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DJ Sedrick – The District House Mutha,
DJ Truz of Hot 107.9 and
the Sexy & Sensational DJ JFK.

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For More Information Visit Website

Info Hot Line (770) 991-6929

Designed by Thierry Jones 404-691-9270

ARTICLE BY KEITH BOYKIN

The Liar, the Predator and the Closeted Guy

Could it be a coincidence that R&B legend Luther Vandross passed away in the same week when Terry McMillan's divorce to a gay man became public and R. Kelly's new "Trapped In The Closet" music video outed a closeted gay man?

Just hours after Logo launched the first ever gay television channel on basic cable and Sandra Day O'Connor resigned from the Supreme Court, our heads were spinning with news that Luther Vandross had died at 54.

The night before, in the very first show to air on Logo (a documentary called "The Evolution Will Be Televised"), gay activist Urvashi Vaid had warned gays and lesbians that visibility does not equal understanding.

She's right, of course, but those of us who are black and gay are still struggling just to be visible. We are still waiting for more of our own heroes to come out or be seen, but like the characters in R. Kelly's musical soap opera, too many of us are still trapped in our own closets.

But some of the black gay men who have been visible recently are not our best representatives. No matter what else he does in life, for example, Jonathan Plummer will always be remembered as Terry McMillan's gay spouse, left to be immortalized like Bobby Brown being introduced to the Dali Lama as "Whitney Houston's husband."

McMillan's husband claimed in court records (published online at thesmokinggun.com) that he did not know he was gay when he met and married his famous companion. Yet down low "expert" J.L. King, quickly pronounced Plummer's explanation not just implausible, but impossible. "Nonsense," King told the Washington Post. "He knew he was gay."

ARTICLE BY KEITH BOYKIN

I'm not sure if Plummer is telling the truth, but his story is certainly plausible. I know because I came out when I was 25 years old, and I never knew I was gay and never slept with a man before that time.

So how would King know the mental state of a 20-year-old Jamaican man he apparently never met? And how does someone like King, who can't even decide if he's straight or bisexual, become a spokesperson for the black LGBT community? Welcome to the media depiction of black gays and lesbians.

Just in time for the McMillan controversy–in a choice almost as ironic as the casting of the closeted gay actor Rock Hudson to play the San Francisco Police Commissioner in the 1970s television show "McMillan and Wife"–the producers at the "Oprah Winfrey Show," on hiatus for the summer, scheduled a July 7 re-run of the controversial "down low" episode that first catapulted King to public attention 15 months earlier.

But there was another hitch to this story. Plummer accused McMillan of hurling hateful homophobic epithets at him after he told her he was gay. "I'm black and rich again and female and I'm smarter than you and an army of fags," McMillan allegedly wrote to him in January. I asked openly gay author E. Lynn Harris, a personal friend of McMillan's, and he told me that "Terry is not homophobic. It's not fun going through a breakup of any sort," he said. "It becomes even more difficult when you're a public figure."

And then there is Luther, the quintessential balladeer of our time, a wealthy and successful bachelor with a beautiful voice who, fat or thin, could have easily found a wife but never married and hardly even bothered to fake a heterosexual lifestyle. When asked about his sexuality in a 2002 interview with BET, Vandross simply said it was none of their business. It was an honest answer that no straight celebrity would ever give.

A

But in the black community, we still subscribe to the policy of "don't ask, don't tell," which may explain why some blacks are upset by efforts to out Vandross posthumously, as if being gay would somehow mar his already extraordinary career.

What people don't understand is that black gays and lesbians are desperate for affirming images of ourselves. While the white gays get Ellen, Elton and the "Queer Eye" guys, we're stuck with J.L King, the poster boy for the down low, Jonathan Plummer, a gay man who deceived a famous wife, and Othniel Askew, the black gay man who murdered a New York City councilman a year ago this month. We rarely see positive stories about us in the media, and when straight blacks attempt to tell our stories, they depict us as scandalously as the closeted gay pastor in R. Kelly's music video.

That's why we're so anxious to clutch onto Luther. We're eager to find realistic images that reflect the true diversity of who we are. And that's why we have to tell our own stories.

This month, a new film called "The Ski Trip" will debut on Logo, becoming the first black gay film on television. It is produced and directed by black gays and lesbians. That's a refreshing change from the pathological portrait of black gay men in the media recently.

If the media could spend half as much time telling these stories as we've spent talking about the down low and Terry McMillan's divorce, we wouldn't have as many black gays and lesbians trapped in the closet. And maybe one day, a new Luther will sing our song instead of R. Kelly.

KEITH BOYKIN

Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times bestselling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.

Keith appeared on the Showtime television series American Candidate and is a frequent presence in the media. He has appeared on VH1, BET, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and numerous other television and radio programs. He has been featured on the cover of several publications including A&U, Out and The Advocate, and he was selected as one of Out Magazine's 100 most intriguing people of 2004. He has also been featured or quoted in articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today and JET magazine.

Down For *Whatever*

By Frederick Smith

In his debut, DOWN FOR WHATEVER (Kensington; July 5, 2005; trade paperback), Frederick Smith has created a mesmerizing first novel in the tradition of E. Lynn Harris and James Earl Hardy that follows the lives of four friends, each hoping to realize their dreams and find true love in the town where all the world's a stage - and everyone's a player. Keith, Tommie, Marco Antonio, and Rafael each ended up in L.A. for different reasons, via different paths, from Mexico to Michigan, from the Ivy League to the streets. But they have one thing in common - they're all looking for Mr. Right.

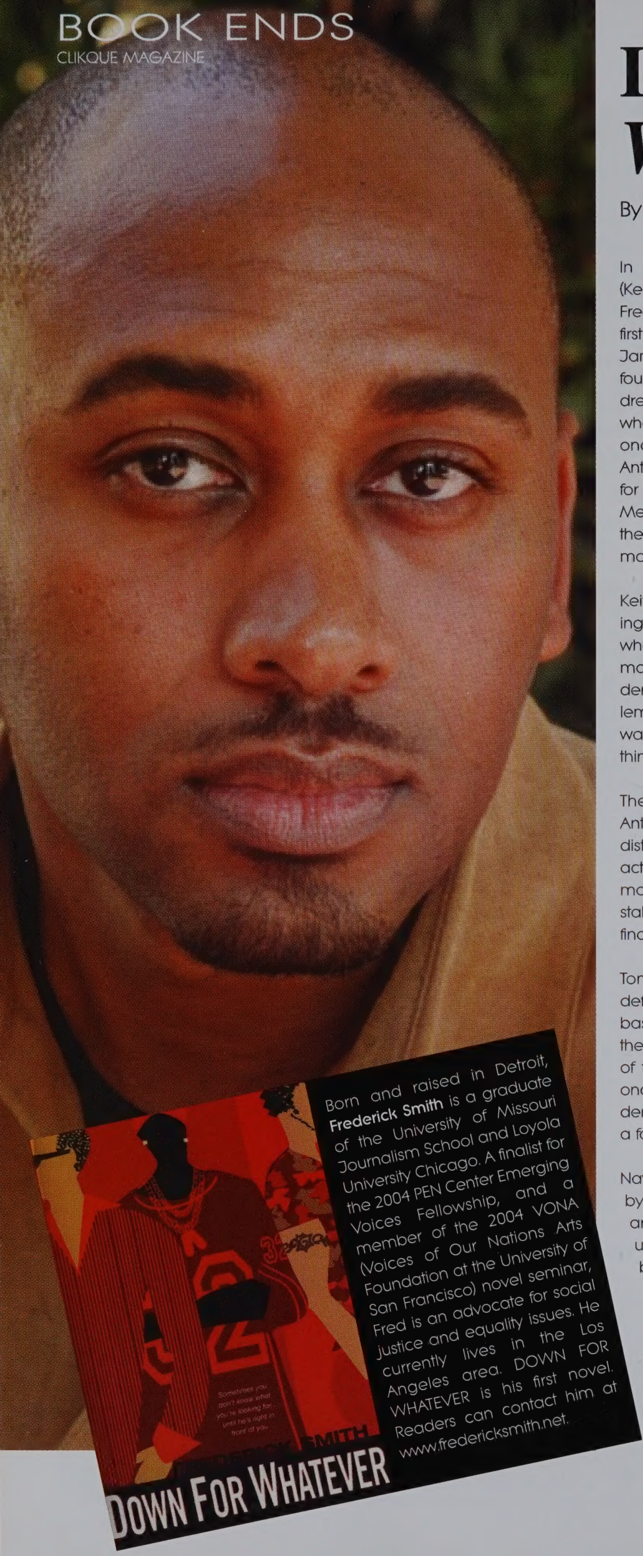
Keith, a preacher's son from Detroit, is looking for love in all the wrong places. But when Cupid answers his prayers with a man who's hot and smart, he's got to wonder if it's too good to be true. Rafael's problem is that he doesn't really know what he wants - so he's willing to try just about everything.

The most stable of the group, Marco Antonio is finally closing the deal on a long-distance romance with an up-and-coming actor. But when the Hollywood celebrity machine interferes, Marco yearns for the stability of a regular guy - and eventually finds himself torn between two lovers.

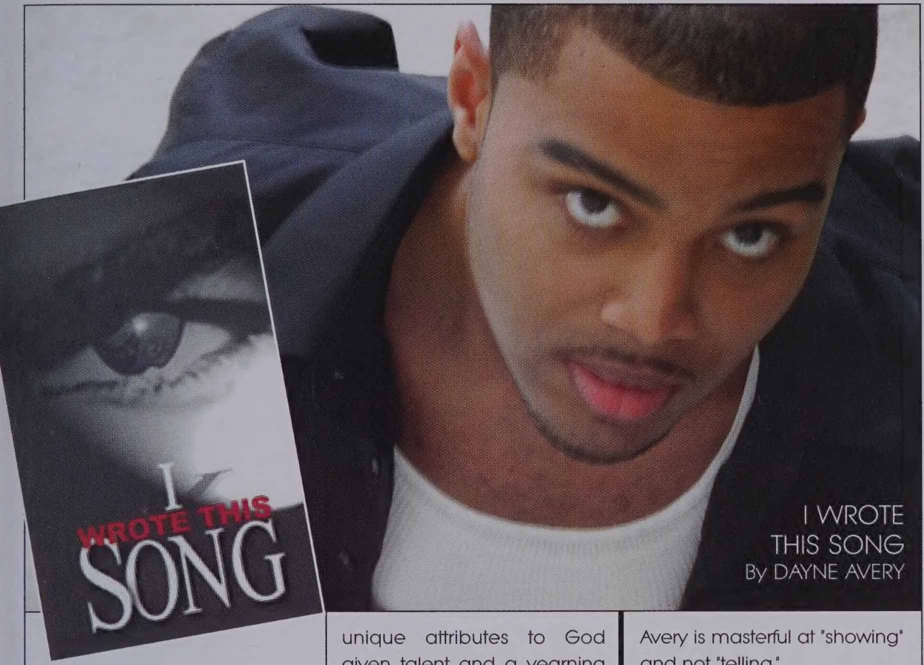
Tommie, a former member of a now defunct R&B group, has fallen for a college basketball player with a dazzling future in the pros. But at thirty-something, barely out of the closet, with little left to show for his once-hot career, Tommie can't help wondering what a young rising star is doing with a fallen star like him.

Navigating a fast-paced world populated by divas, drama queens, and DLs, the guys are about to find out if real love can triumph in the City of Angels, where perfect bodies, youth, and black and brown pride come together and collide with gay pride. DOWN FOR WHATEVER is a fun, sexy, and insightful tale of modern love in black and Latino Los Angeles.

Kensington Publishing Company
Publication Date: July 2005
ISBN: 0-7582-0979-7


Sometimes you don't know what you're looking for until he's right in front of you.
SMITH
DOWN FOR WHATEVER

Born and raised in Detroit, **Frederick Smith** is a graduate of the University of Missouri Journalism School and Loyola University Chicago. A finalist for the 2004 PEN Center Emerging Voices Fellowship, and a member of the 2004 VONA (Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation at the University of San Francisco) novel seminar, Fred is an advocate for social justice and equality issues. He currently lives in the Los Angeles area. DOWN FOR WHATEVER is his first novel. Readers can contact him at www.fredericksmith.net.



I WROTE THIS SONG

By DAYNE AVERY

Introducing the newest kid on the literary block- 23 year old Dayne Avery.

Writing is the art Avery was born to create. A love for language, paired with a passion to tell a story which needed telling birthed the vision for I Wrote This Song- Avery's debut novel.

The titles significance? When you think about it, life is like a song, a complicated melody full of high and low notes. "I want my story to resonate with beauty, creativity, and purpose," Avery smiles "and I will fight to make it so."

I Wrote This Song showcases a writing style seemingly penned by hands much older and filled with more wisdom than anyone so young should possess. Avery credits his unique attributes to God given talent and a yearning to let to world hear his voice. "Most know me as mild mannered and are taken back when they discover I had enough words inside to fill the pages of a great novel. I wanted to give a ray of hope, or at least take peoples minds off of how cruel this life can be. And if nothing else, help the man whose shoes I used to fill- struggling on a rocky path towards self acceptance, letting him know he is not alone."

Mr. Avery has definitely written a powerful and passionate novel that should be read by everyone. It is rare to find an author blessed with the gift of writing with a stylistic and nuanced technique so developed that the reader becomes a part of the story. There is a huge difference between telling a story and painting a picture and Mr. Avery is masterful at "showing" and not "telling."

I Wrote This Song is a MUST read. This novel deals with the gamut of human emotions and creates real characters with real issues that are treated with finesse and grace. Love is always a complicated and complex conundrum of emotions and Mr. Avery vividly shows the duality of love: its beauty as well as its uncanny ability to hurt. In the end, the heart will always love what it loves...

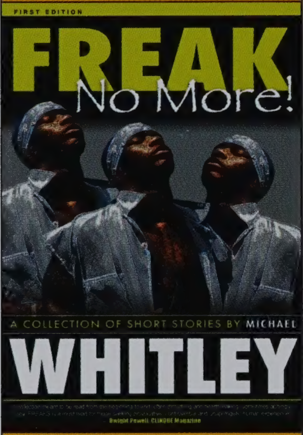
Mr. Avery makes me proud to be a writer. Don't miss out on I Wrote This Song.

– Lee Hayes, author of Passion Marks. "www.passionmarks.com"
Paperback: 208 pages
BookSurge Publishing
(February 8, 2005)
ISBN: 0976132303

“Don’t be scared, it will hurt just a little”

Synopsis:

Ten Years in the making, Freak is the collected (thoughts) (words) (torment) of unconventional voices outside the societal radar desperately trying to normalize themselves. It's what a freak, someone rejected wants more, that is to be accepted, loved. In the short story "The Reverend is a good man," Michael Whitley explores the complexity of molestation and how a victim can mistakenly love its (predator). In the short story "Mama's Medicine," a nine year old boy dreams of running away to Sesame Street, so that he wouldn't have to deal with his mother's death. The side splitting, of the wall, extremely funny Dangerous life of a male secretary and Pink Jelly Sandals, someone is trying to kill the underachiever and a gay boy remembers his first love, obsession, his middle school crush and the girl he once fought to worship. The last story, Who Is Sean, an alcoholic and sex addict puts a bullet through his heart because he did the one thing he promised himself he'ld never do, fall in love. A collection, purposely murdering fairytales, so unapologetic, is often disturbing and heartbreaking, sometimes achingly funny, but a must read for those seeking provocative, controversial and unapologetic urban human experiences.


FIRST EDITION
FREAK
No More!
A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES BY MICHAEL
WHITLEY
Dwight Powell CLIKQUE Magazine

QUOTE FROM AUTHOR: In my heart, I will always be that eight year old boy abandoned by his mother. Under normal circumstances, that is if my father didn't get himself murdered and my mother never got addicted to crack, I probably would've grown up to be something noble and safe like a Doctor or Corporate Lawyer. Instead, because the wound of abandonment cut so deep into my soul, I knew I could never be "sitcom" normal, always a freak outside the radar, thus I became an artist. The sitcom "normal" had betrayed me. It made me a freak. It also made me creative because I needed to create a world where a freak like me could belong and laugh and cry about life. I needed to express the void in my soul.

About author: Michael Whitley was born in Texas, graduated from the University of Houston and studied under Edward Albee and the Hurston/Wright workshops with Mat Johnson. A produced playwright and published writer, he now resides in Washington D.C

CLIKQUE INTERVIEW

How long have I been a writer?
I wrote my first poem in first grade. Yes, in first grade I already knew how to read, write and count money. Actually, I knew how to count money before I got to kindergarten. When you're the son of a crackhead, you have to learn life quick.

Why did you want to become a writer?
I never wanted to become a writer per se. I guess you can say, there were two life changing incidents. In essence, I wanted to become a storyteller --that's how I knew it. When I was nine years old, my grandmother was the best family storyteller. She would get all of us kids in a room on a hot summer night, we make a circle around her and she would tell us stories of our parents

When did you write your first story?
I wrote my first story when I was fifteen years old. I wrote on the bathroom floor at two o'clock in the morning. It was like an exorcism, the best high of my life. I have yet to experience anything like it again. It was like god was flowing through me. I couldn't sleep because I had a voice whispering in my ear. I got some notebook paper and locked myself in the bathroom. I wasn't suppose to be up that late, knew if I got caught, I would get in trouble, but I needed to tell the story. I found a pen, and on the bathroom floor I wrote "Fatal Love." It was a story about a white boy falling in love with a black girl during Jim Crow. A year later, it won the San Antonio Literary award for best youth fiction.

When did you want to become a writer?
I never stopped writing. I wanted to become a film director. I went to school to become a film director. It didn't work out, but I never stopped writing. I never stopped wrestling with the voices in my head and life. It would turn out to be my saving grace. I woke up at twenty seven years old and realized I had nothing. I had no life. I was broke, no job, living back in Texas, and not sure what was to become of my life. I never stopped writing. I woke up to find that it was all that I had. I had so many stories, hundreds, but wasn't doing anything with them. Writing was my refuge.

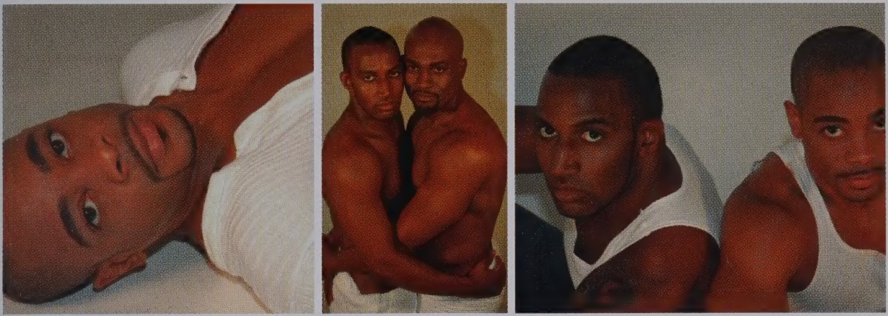
How would you describe Freak?
When you're the minority's minority, it can seem difficult to dream without compromise in a world that teaches to value everything but yourself, to tell every story but your own, so I had to ponder what does happiness look like for the invisible, down low, unseen. Freak, no more is bravery. I could have written a black gay fairytale with perfect pretty black successful characters with problems. I love E. Lynn Harris. I pay tribute to him, because he made it possible for me, but I don't know too many successful people or perfect. I know the drag queens, the check writers, the strippers, the hustlers, old men who chase young boys, so I could only tell my truth. As an authentic writer, you can only tell your truth. Freak, is the only truth I know.

Why should people buy your book?
The characters in Freak, no more, seek life. A life they can own, value, fight for. I feel when you're black and gay, you have to learn to tell your own stories because no one else will. You have to learn to fight for your own experiences because no one else. You have to learn to give yourself power, identity and value, because no one else will.

Is Freak, no more is mostly black and gay?
No, it's universal. I read "Memoir of a Geisha," and I'm not Asian or a prostitute.

Any last words?
I love that line in Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory about money being common, that it's made and printed everyday, but you only get one life chance, to be special, to be chosen -- you would be a dummy to buy into the idea of normal or safe. Life is about feeling alive. Freak is so dangerous, so alive, it should be illegal. I'm a fucking rock star.

BOOK DROPS TUESDAY 30TH AUGUST / For details visit www.MichaelWhitley.net



photography by malik m.l. williams

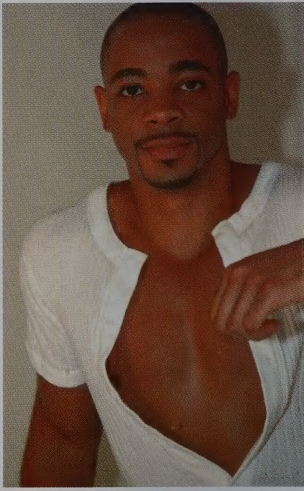
BrothaLove
IMAGES

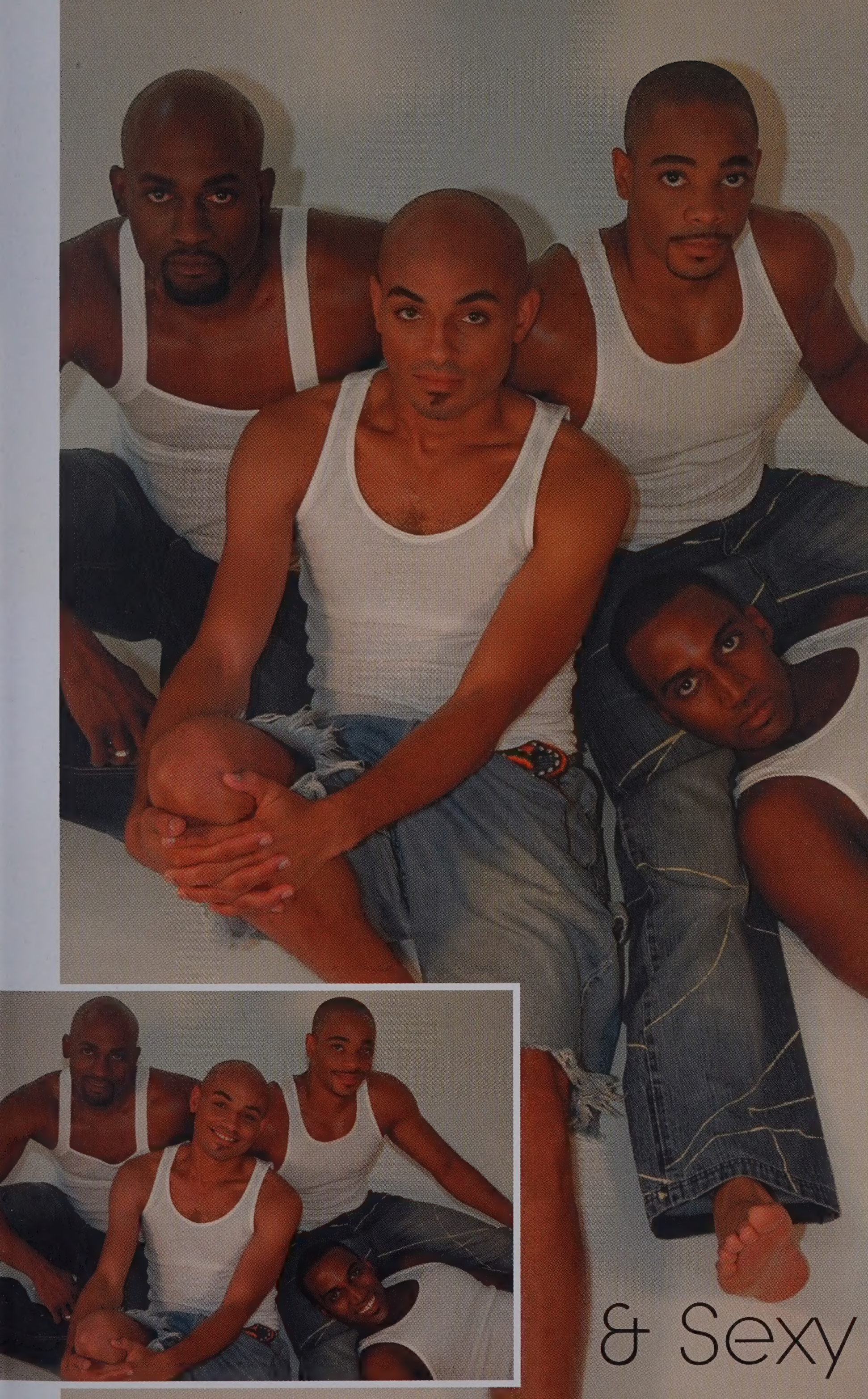
Visit www.BrothaLoveImages.com

WHITE HOT!

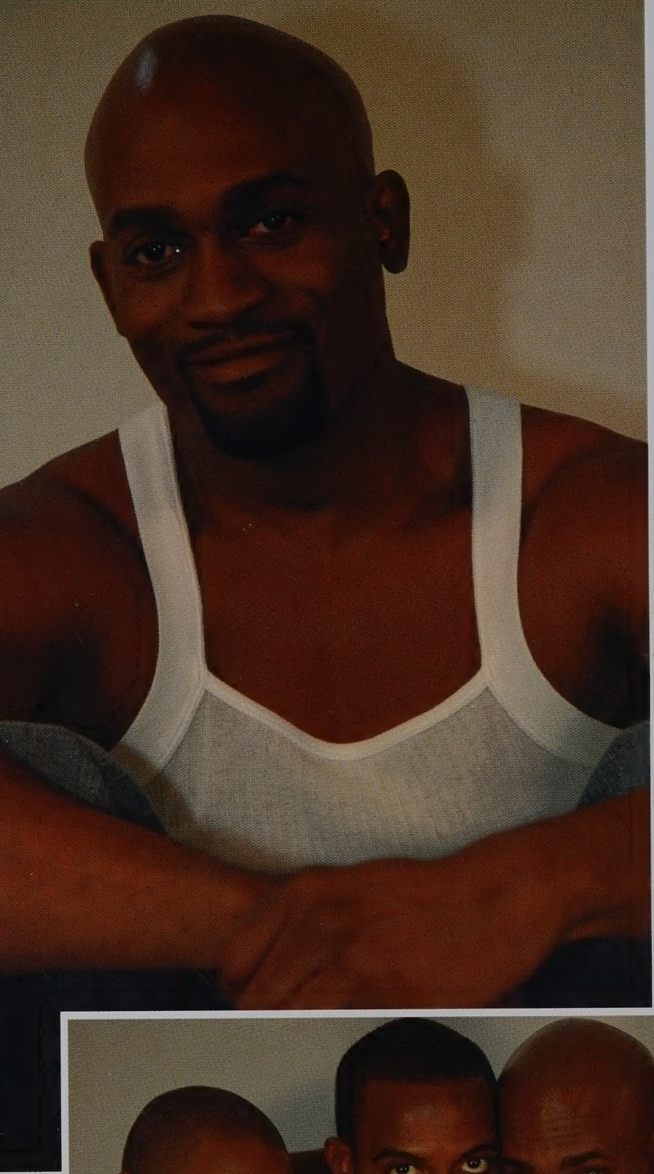
Photographed exclusively for Clikque Magazine by
malik m.l. williams of BrothaLoveImages.com

Fashion mavens for ages have marked Labor Day as the end of the summer season, the last day to wear white. But whether it calls for a last-days-of-summer tank top, an almost-fall sweater, or a whole lot less, Labor Day Weekend in Atlanta is always WHITE HOT!





& Sexy



Make-up:

Amethyst Light Designs

Assistant art direction

The ADODI Muse

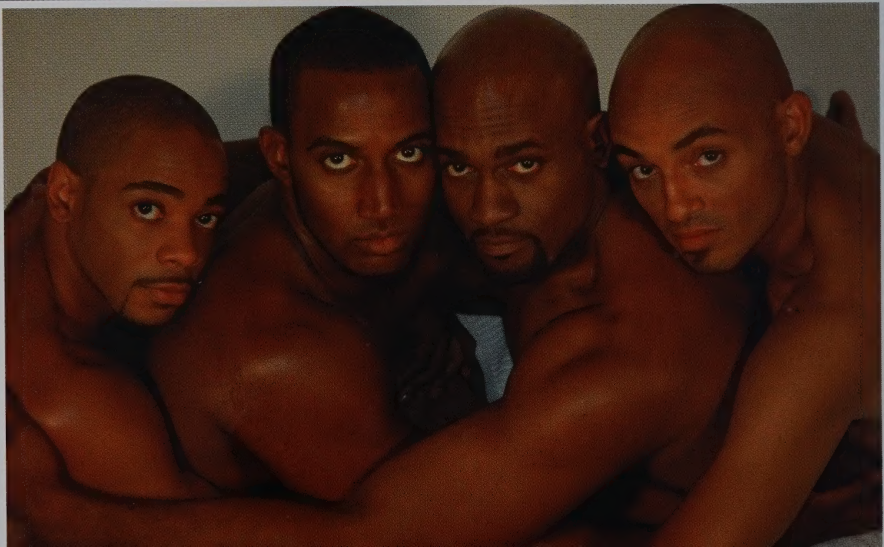
Models: (L-R Below)

Findrix A. Bowers III

D. Ransom

Phoenix Boyd

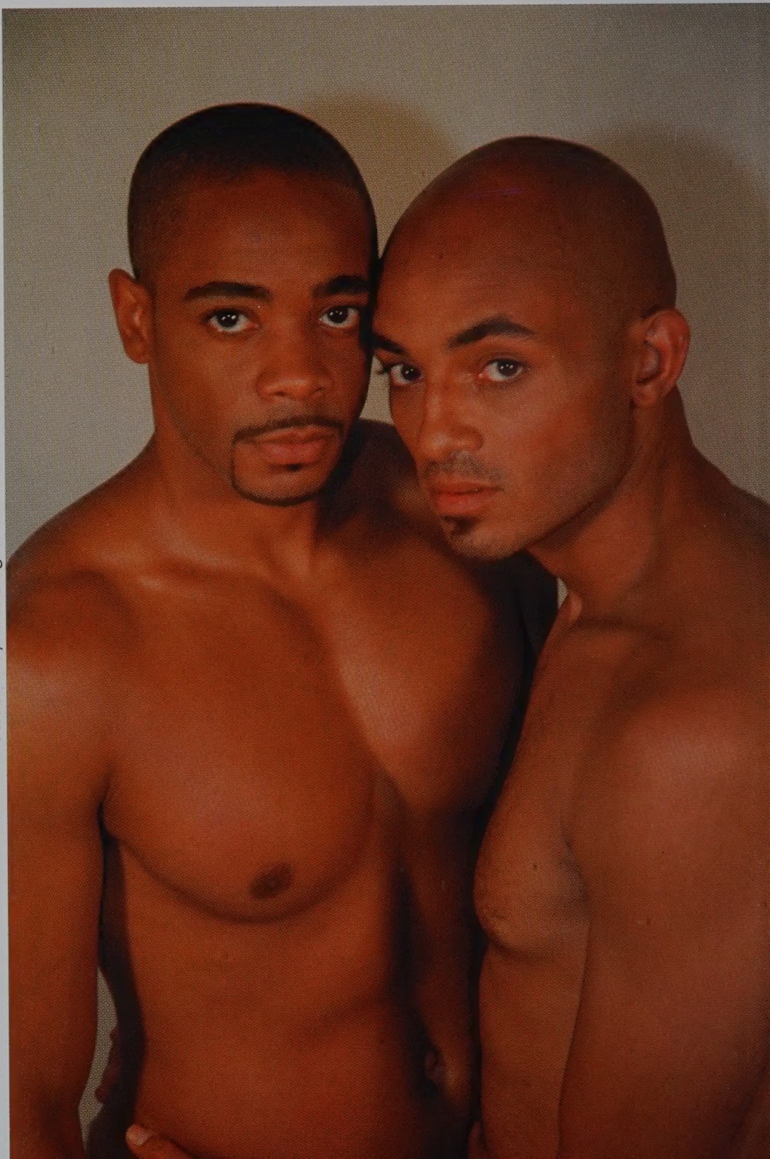
David Lee



Black men are beautiful

Writer/Photographer – **Malik M.L. Williams**
Atlanta, Georgia

That is the simple premise that is at the heart of BrothaLove Images operating philosophy: "presenting positive images of black men." My hope is that the representations of men i create will reflect the diversity, strength, creativity and - of course - beauty that i see in black men everywhere. I am especially encouraged by some of the images of brothas loving brothas i have been able to create.

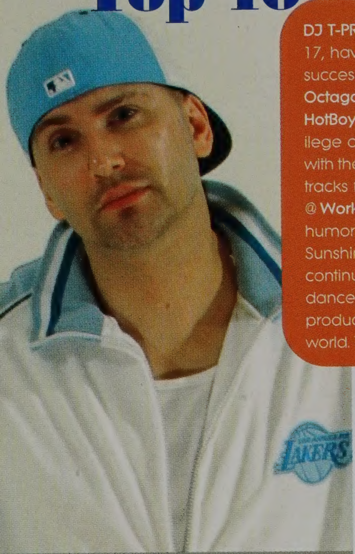


We don't see enough representations of ourselves, our love, our worthiness in the world around us. If i can change that, even a little bit, i believe i'm on the right path.

MUSIC REVIEWS

T-PRO / BILLBORAD

T-Pro's Top 10



DJ T-PRO (just T to his friends) arrived NYC via Washington DC at the tender age of 17, having already played as resident to DC's largest club. He soon continued his success in NY playing clubs like the legendary **Limelight, Roxy, Tunnel, Milk, Octagon, Warehouse, CafeConLeche, Escuelita, Exit, Krash, Cheetah** and the **HotBoyz Pride Events** featuring **Mary J Blige, Lil Kim & Ashanti**. He also had the privilege of being a 5-year resident dj @ NY's most popular club SPLASH and partying with the likes of **Mariah, Britney & Janet**. This amazing dj has also produced/remixed tracks for **Janet** & her brother **Michael Jackson, Ellen Degeneres, Mad Tv, Masters @ Work, Marilyn Manson, Jellybean Benitez, Arthur Baker, Kristine W** and yes, even humorously, **Wonder Woman**. Now living in Miami, T is a resident dj at some of the Sunshine State's largest clubs **Coliseum, Discotheque, Karma & Nocturnal**. He also continues 2 dj / vj once a month @ **SPLASH** in **NYC**, reports 4 **Billboard** magazine's dance chart, is hip-hop music columnist 4 **Clikque** magazine and even finds time 2 produce some of the best DVD visual installations (aka **"Ttv"**) 4 clients all over the world. T is truly bringing multimedia 2 the masses.

1 We Run This (tpromix)
MISSY ELLIOTT
ATLANTIC

2 Shake
YING YANG TWINS f/ PITBULL
TVT

3 Twisted
OLIVIA f/ Lloyd Banks
G-UNIT

4 Bounce That Thang
MR. EASY
RUDEGAL

5 LO QUE PASO PASO
DADDY YANKEE
POLYDOR

6 To The Floor
R. KELLY, WYSEN & YINDELL
JIVE

7 Holla Back Girl (dancehall rmx)
GWEN STEFANI
INTERSCOPE

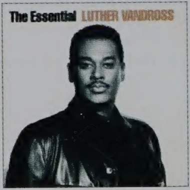
8 In Ya Face
EBONY EYES
TRACKMASTE

9 We Belong 2gether (rmx)
MARIAH CAREY
DEFJAM

10 Don't Ya Wish Ya Girlfrind
BOW WOW f/Ciera
SONY

LUTHER VANDROSS,

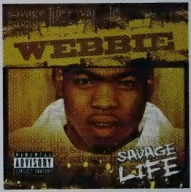
THE ESSENTIAL, - in stores Now



Where do I start? Luther was such a sweet man, and that voice is one of a kind. In a recent TV interview, Luther recalled having dinner with Whitney Houston and upon seeing a rather thin man walk by, Luther commented that is how he wants 2 look. Whitney's reply 2 Luther's weight battle..."but he can't sing". True words Luther, God does not give everybody everything and your gift of voice touched so many lives. For instance, a rather famous DJ friend of mine was very close 2 Luther, and through him a mutual friend (and hot boy) of ours was introduced. Luther and the young lad hit it off, he was flown 2 LA and surrounded by the sweetness that was our Luther. How many wedding vows taken because of Luther? How many babies were made because of Luther? How much R&B was influenced by his style? From commercial jingles 2 his first solo recording (the classic "Never 2 Much"), Luther served up jam after jam. This collection features the incredible "A House Is Not A Home", "Stop 2 Love", "If This World were mine" (with Cheryl Lynn), "I Who Have Nothing" (with Martha Wash) and so much more. Just buy it. Luther is essential in every collection. (11T) (11T).

WEBBIE,

TSAVAGE LIFE, in stores now



If u are a fan of dirty south Style HH, then this is the CD 4 U! Why he is asking another man "Give Me That Pussy" I do not quite know, but the first single of the same title was a huge hit during Sizzle 2005 and is still all over radio (without the pussy, of course). Additional tracks like "Full Of dat Shit", 'Crank It Up" and "Gutta Bitch", "Bad Bitch" and "Pack Dat Shit" should let u know what this CD is about. I aint gonna do a social commentary on this CD...I will just say that if u want some real south car & club tracks (albeit mostly REALly Negative) this CD is 4 u. I give him a sliding scale of T, from 4-7T. 4 because I like some of the tracks and the beats r hot, but they are, on occasion, so blatantly promoting negativity that it is painful. The 7T because my friends that luv south hip-hop love this CD in ALL it's gory glory and don't analyze music they just enjoy it. Someone once said "Ignorance Is Bliss" and I

At the end of each review, T-Pro rates each album by giving T points of 1 thru 10. 10 being Tight/Awesome and 1 being Tired

agree. Sometimes I wish I could just listen 2 a track promoting Gun Violence and not think it made any difference 2 the children hearing it on the radio. Oops, I guess I did do my social commentary(8T)

MARIAH CAREY,

THE EMANCIPATION OF MIMI
, in stores Now

The new single "Shake It Off" is released this month. It's iight, but "Get Your Number", "We Belong 2gether Rmx" and "Stay The Night" r my personal faves. It is funny that I luv this CD because her last few CD's annoyed me...she was always running notes (ad-libbing) it was like there was no melody 2 any of her tracks. I think that's why I always like her classic "Breakdown" because she was forced 2 use her beautiful voice 2 sing that melody by Bone Thugz & Harmony. Now in 2005 JD asked her 2 do the same and it works. PS, if u can, find the south rmx of "It's Like That" (very hot). PPS, can somebody email me and tell me why in every performance Mariah has her hair blowing in the wind. She was standing next to 10 people on VH1's "Save The Music" and the only hair moving was hers....amazing....lol(9)

B5, B5, in stores Now

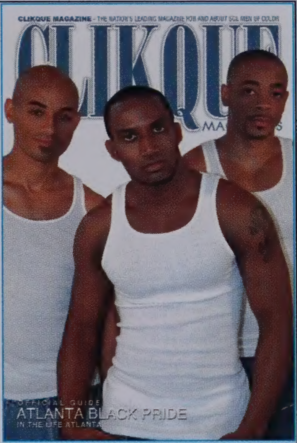
5 Brothers, hot looks and hot voices are making the girls (& boyz) go crazy. Produced by P Ditty, this CD has everything from high energy styled dance- hop 2 super-sweet ballads. The highlights are the down-tempo single "All I Do" and the as of yet unreleased "Dance 4 me'. I also liked "Teachers Pet", Back In Your Arms", Heartbreak" and "No More Games". Considering this is meant 2 be the introductory disc 4 these 5 and not necessarily the strongest work on the planet, it does shine. Why they released "U Got Me" I am not sure, it is NOT the strongest song on the CD...but 2 b fair, Puffy does have a lot going on with his fashion label, so it should be expected the record label might suffer a bit. I was surprised not 2 c them in the top 10 of BET every 5 minutes like B2Gay (b2k) used 2 b. Who is executive producer? Hmmm look up "Payola" in the dictionary! Although I am giving the boyz a 6 for they're first time out, I do anticipate many more CD's from this group. Overall, I enjoyed the disc but I found myself waiting 4 another major catchy tune 2 show up, and it never does. (6T)

FATTY KOO,

HOUSE OF FATTY KOO, in stores now

If it weren't 4 Joshua (pictured) I would not have ever heard of this band. The name just seemed so BET circa 1992 that I was not gonna give 'em a chance. Then I saw this little cutie in the preview on TV and had 2 watch. It was kind of like watching "Making The Band" except everybody actually has talent. Enough talent that Sony Records is giving them the green light 2 showcase their skills and many are. Highlights include "Shake", "Bounce", "Cruise Control" and "Lust". Ok, now back 2 Josh, who at only 15 years of age says his influences are James Brown, Fred Astaire and Michael Jackson. Drawing energy from his current faves of Justin Timberlake and Kanye West, Joshua says he wants 2 do more than just sell records he wants "2 change lives". The BET show, new CD and Tour with band mates Gabrielle, Mayra, Valure, Eddie B and Ron (all under 21) is a great place 2 start. . (7T)

Material to be reviewed in this magazine must be send to: Music Review Department, Clikque Magazine
1001 N Federal Hwy., Suite 365, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009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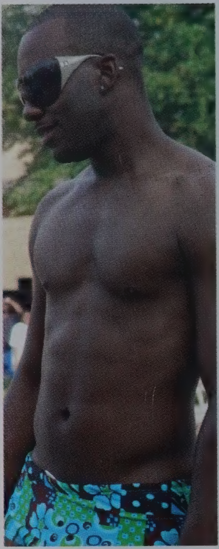
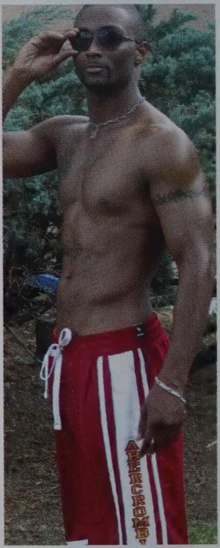
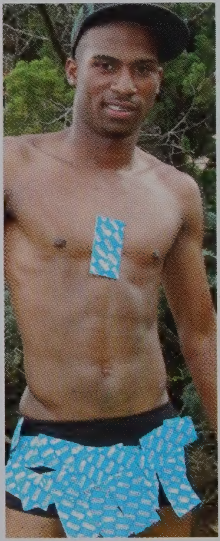
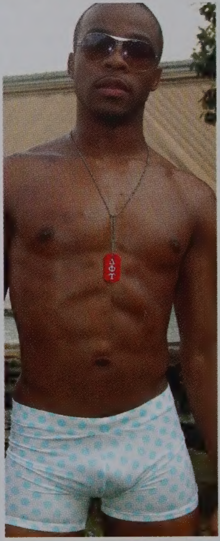
Congrats to Derrick Miles, Sean Dawson, and the team @ Houston Splash for putting on a successful event this past May



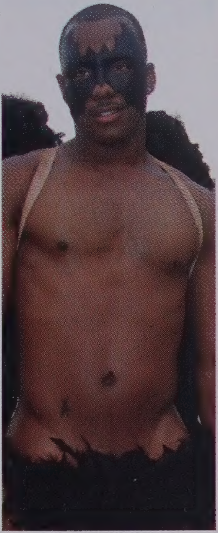


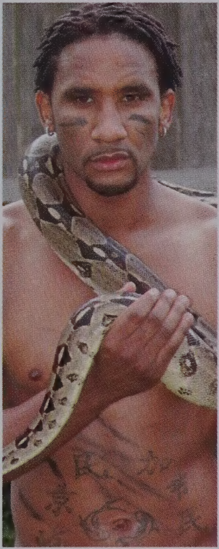


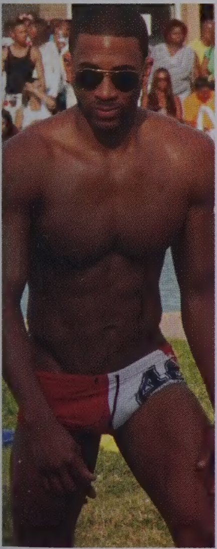


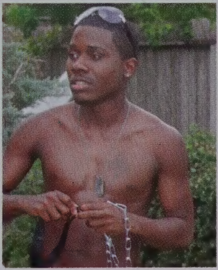
above: Clikque Magazine November 2004 Cover Model, sexy ass Mac stricks a pose for the camera @ Houston Splash pool party & fashion show.

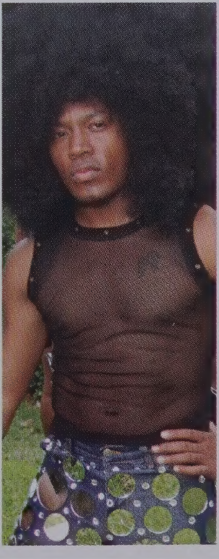
left:
The sexy men of Flavamen Magazine was in the house.











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"On the Low,"

a Short Film by Luther M. Mace, Makes Its Film Festival Premiere

"On the Low" contributes to the new millennium's black gay renaissance. It is a film about two African-American high school boys involved in a clandestine aka "down low" or "DL" relationship.

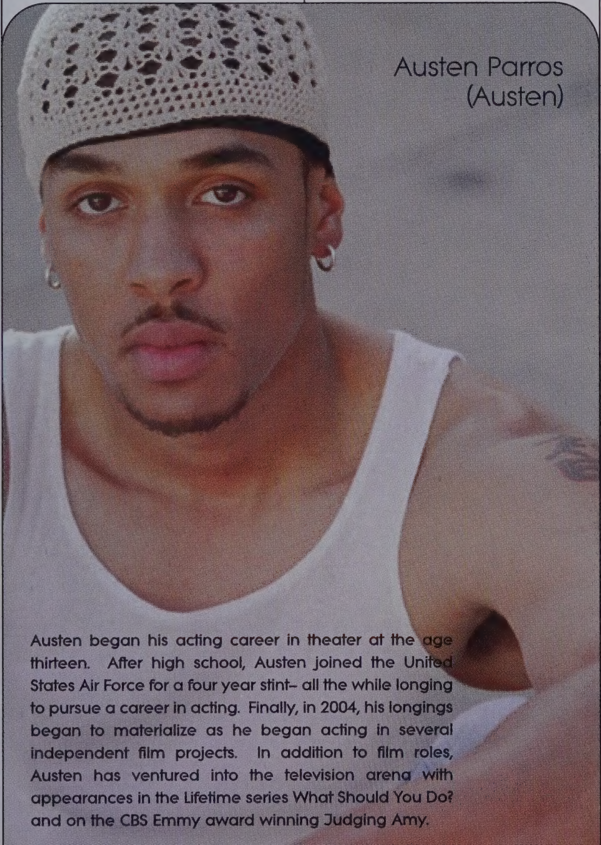
"On The Low," a short film, explores the emotional consequences of a hush-hush intimate relationship between two African-American high school boys.

"On The Low" tells the story of a young man, Ty Evans, coming to terms with his sexuality and the inner conflict he experiences. The true extent of Ty's relationship with his classmate, Kevin Banks, begins to trouble him when the boys get into a schoolyard shoving match. As the tension between them escalates, Ty realizes what began as innocent curiosity and experimentation has blossomed into a deeper infatuation. He recognizes that the only way to come to terms with his feelings is to admit to Kevin that he's in love with him.

Kevin & Ty's first time

"On The Low" depicts the cultural phenomenon–"the down low" or "DL"– prevalent in urban communities in which African-American males are intimately involved with both men and women. However, as the title alludes, the homosexual relationship remains a secret. "There's something universal about integrity and self-respect," explains the film's writer-director Luther M. Mace. "Anybody– gay, straight, black, white; male, female– who believes that it's okay to be in a relationship with somebody who refuses to publicly acknowledge them is in for a rude awakening."
This film stars Deondray Gossett ("Sister Act 2"), Delpano Wills ("Dark Town"),

OTL CONTINUES ON PAGE 66


Austen Parros
(Austen)

Austen began his acting career in theater at the age thirteen. After high school, Austen joined the United States Air Force for a four year stint– all the while longing to pursue a career in acting. Finally, in 2004, his longings began to materialize as he began acting in several independent film projects. In addition to film roles, Austen has ventured into the television arena with appearances in the Lifetime series What Should You Do? and on the CBS Emmy award winning Judging Amy.

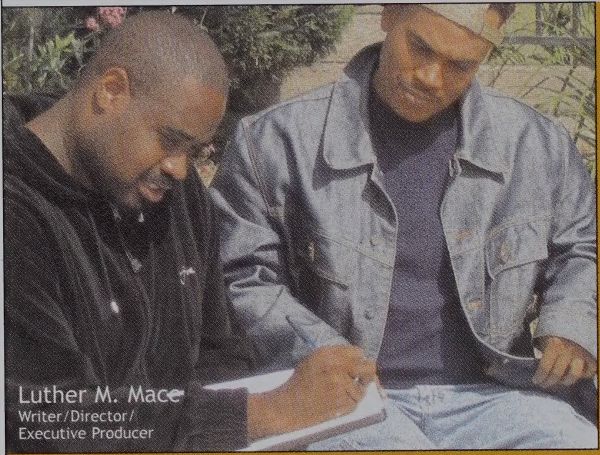
OTL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65

and Tommy Mikal Ford ("Martin," "Harlem Nights"). The short also features newcomers Antoine D'Angelo Lattier, Gene Samuel and Austen Parros.

Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, a hard-knocks area of New York City, Luther Mace knows first hand what it's like to grow up in a machismo environment in which homosexuality is not widely accepted. "I've spent so many years fighting the inevitable because I knew I'd be ostracized by everybody around me," contends Mace. "In fact, this (film) is ripped right out of my personal journal. I know what's like to keep a relationship a secret because other people finding out could have dire emotional consequences."

Deondray Gossett (Ty Evans)

Actor/Writer/Producer/Director: Deondray Gossett has had major experience in front of the camera as well as behind. A classically trained and award-winning actor, Deondray Gossett began his career as a screen, television and theatre actor, having worked with the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Bill Duke, Lauryn Hill, Danny Devito, Steve Gomer (director), and Nathan Lane and guest-starred on series such as Roswell, The Parenthood, and the The Hughleys. He also acted in and lent his voice to the film and soundtrack of the hit musical Sister Act 2. After having enjoyed considerable success in the entertainment industry on screen for over 10 years, he decided to try his hand off screen. Disillusioned with the Hollywood studio machine and limited opportunities for people of color, Deondray was inspired to take matters into his own hands; he partnered with actor/writer/director Quincy LeNear to form 2 Cents Productions. As a writer, Deondray penned the story for the 2 Cents Productions' film Had U and co-directed it with Quincy LeNear. The film went on to win Best Experimental Short Film in Showtime Network's Digital Film Festival. In 2004, Gossett and LeNear completed Of Death and Dying, an emotionally charged short film that deals with coming to terms with one's own mortality.



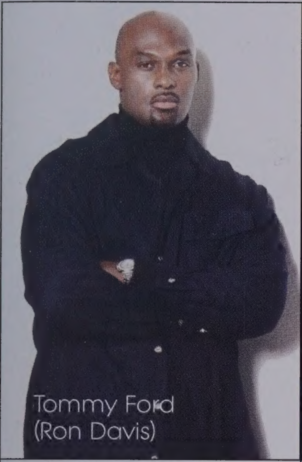
Luther M. Mace
Writer/Director/
Executive Producer

Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, New York, Luther has had a passion for the entertainment biz since he was a young child. Often studying the end credits of his favorite television shows and wondering what each job title entailed. Earning his Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications from Emerson College in 1992, Luther traveled to Los Angeles to pursue his career goals.

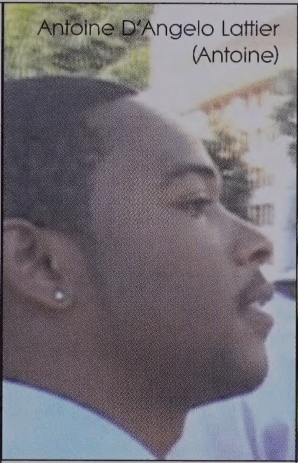
In 1993, Luther landed his first literary agent with an ambitious TV spec script for the now defunct Roseanne television series. In 1996, he was accepted into the prominent David Milch Writing Seminar— an enviable opportunity to further develop his craft as a writer under the tutelage of legendary scribe David Milch. In 1997, Luther went to work for HBO in an administrative capacity in which he absorbed a plethora of knowledge from some of the best and brightest industry minds working in the field of entertainment. Later that year, Luther formed TorchLight Media, a film and television production company committed to developing and producing trailblazing projects for all media.

2003 proved to be a banner year for the budding filmmaker. He was accepted into Independent Filmmakers Project- Los Angeles' celebrated Project: Involve program and his script Love & Marriage received recognition by Sundance by advancing to the quarterfinals of the Screenwriters Lab.

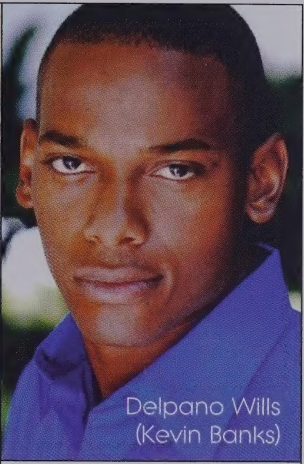
In the latter half of 2003, while attending a seminar honoring the works of David Mamet, Luther was struck by the advice given by the guest of honor in which Mr. Mamet encouraged the attendees to take a more proactive role in their careers by figuring out a way to produce their own work. Shortly afterwards, Luther developed On The Low, his directorial debut, based his personal experience of falling in love for the first time. Contact: Info@torchlightmedia.com



Tommy Ford
(Ron Davis)



Antoine D'Angelo Lattier
(Antoine)



Delpano Wills
(Kevin Banks)

Tommy Ford: His recurring role as the fun-loving father on **UPN's** sitcom **The Parkers** is just another side of the versatile actor who keeps his audience guessing.

Whether playing Tommy on FOX television's comedy hit **Martin** or displaying a totally versatile style on FOX television's controversial drama **New York Undercover** as the cool collective 'Lieutenant **Malcolm Barker**', Tommy Ford is constantly making changes in his career and finding that he will always be successful in any endeavor he chooses to take on.

Although acting is his first love, Ford has successfully directed and produced several plays and is currently attached to three film projects for which he has been chosen to direct.

He has also been involved in numerous theater productions for which he has received great critical acclaim for his directing and acting efforts. Among those productions are Jonin', South of Where We Live, (Drama Logue Award, Image Award nomination), Monsoon Christmas (Drama Logue & Image Award), Living Room (Image Award nomination) and Distant Fires (Drama Logue & Image Award nomination).

As a writer, Ford has followed a long time dream and launched a series of children's books. The first two releases entitled Be Still And Know an Stop The Violence have won the hearts of many adults and childre alike. These imminent classics are designed to promote healthy, spiritual, an non-violent living to guide young people in their effort to becom better people by applying positive principles to daily living.

Tommy has just completed twelve new children's storybooks! These books are filled with beautiful illustrations, positive words of encouragement, and are designed to delight children all over the world. Although Tommy's books are written for children, they are ideal for parents to use as teaching tools. Each book is carefully designed to address a plethora of subject matters, questions, concerns, and curiosities of children. His newly release books are: Hey, Do You Have A Positive Attitude? & I Am Responsible For Me!

Antoine D'Angelo Lattier
(Antoine)
Lauded as a child acting prodigy, Antoine made his first attempts into the performance milieu at the age of twelve while taking center stage in several church theatrical productions. Antoine received formal training while attending Cal State Northridge and Riverside Community College. He continues to develop his passion for his craft by studying the distinguished works of fellow thespians Denzel Washington, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and Jamie Foxx among others. At twenty one, he began to pursue his dreams professionally by landing a role at his first industry audition, ON THE LOW. Antoine stays grounded by keeping his life motto simple: "Put God first and keep your family close."

Gene Samuel (Trevor)
A student of the prestigious TVI Actors Studio, Gene made his feature film debut in the 2002 horror flick, Dark Town. The next year, he joined the small, but elite company of actors to portray slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King in a documentary commemorating forty years of Dr. King's famous I HAVE A DREAM speech. A current resident of Las Vegas, Gene continues to flex his dexterous acting muscles by performing in local theater while frequenting Los Angeles for roles in all media.

Delpano Wills (Kevin Banks)
Born in the US, Delpano Wills spent many of his formative years in West Africa learning the culture and customs of the African natives. Returning to the states for his adolescence, Del continued to exploit his intellectual curiosity by attending medical school upon which time he got bitten by the acting bug. In 2002, he completed production in his first feature film, Dark Town.

PREMIERES

On The Low is currently premiering at various location throughout the country. For location dates and times, visit the official website: http://www.onthelowmovie.com

ARTICLE BY JAMES EARL HARDY

LOOKING FOR LUTHER

Luther Vandross was a Same Gender Loving man.

The evidence? It's not that he worshiped divas like Aretha, Diana, Patti, and Dionne. Or that he was never linked romantically to a woman. Or that he refused to confirm or deny that he was one of the Children.

I've been listening to it on record, cassette tape, CD, and now my iPod for the last quarter century.

I got my first clue the very first time I heard his voice. The year: 1980. In the very first line of Change's "The Glow of Love" he sings:

Flowers bloom, mornin' dew
and the beauty seems to say
It's a pleasure when you treasure
all that's new and true and gay

"Does he mean gay . . . or gay?" I thought to myself. He answered this question the following year with his debut, Never Too Much. I noticed that "Sugar and Spice (I Found Me A Girl)" and "She's A Super Lady" were sandwiched between non-gender specific songs, such as the title tune, the landmark remake "A House Is Not A Home," and the rather scandalous "I've Been Working," which is basically the confession of a ho':

I don't know why the world loves
a forever love affair
(I'm just a freak)
Who loves a one night thing oh yeah
(A one night all night)
And after a long day of work
all I wanna do is play around
So I'm going out
For a little bit of love
And a whole lotta getting down

I've been working
I've been all-day working
And I need somebody
Said I need some
I need some love tonight

Given that the gluttonous, hedonistic seventies were over and something called GRID was decimating gay men, this was a rather bold track for him to cut. And he doesn't say who that somebody he plans to bang is.

This pattern would be repeated in the future. For every "She Won't Talk To Me," "Lady, Lady," and "She Don't Mind," there was "Any Love," "Isn't There Someone," and "So Amazing." In fact, check his repertoire and you'll see that the object of his affection usually isn't identified as female. And sometimes the hint he dropped wasn't so subtle. He tackled "Ki=. lling Me SoftlyWith His Song" as is, knowing full well that those whispers about being gay would grow louder. With "Your Secret Love," those whispers became shouts, since the song also works as a on-the-low/down-low anthem. On "Religion," he acknowledged the hell we go through when our families can't accept us.

Then there's "Hit It Again," a title that speaks for itself. How many straight people do you know use that phrase? After hearing it, a friend of mine joked: "Luther must be an Enrique Cruz fan!" (Cruz runs a Bla-tino gay porn company.) And, is it just a coincidence that the guest rap is performed by Queen "I am not a lesbian" Latifah?

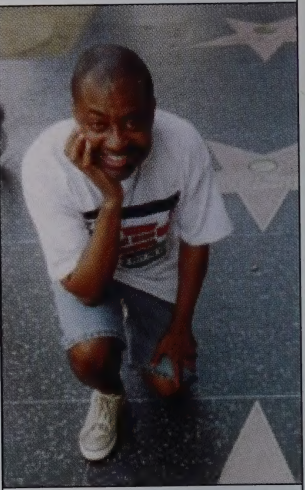
He also passed on to others selections he probably wished he could've recorded himself. For Dionne, it was "Got A Date" (Got a date, can't be late, ooh my my, with my guy, I can't wait); for Aretha, "Every Girl (Wants My Guy)" (They ain't never gonna get him...why can't they see, that the boy loves me?).

Luther has been addressing us, that other audience the music industry ignores, for decades. Thanks to Luther, I didn't have to substitute a "he" or "him" in my favorite tunes; I could claim them as my own. This is why his repertoire became the soundtrack for my life, as well as the couple I created in the B-Boy Blues series, Mitchell (aka Little Bit) and Raheim (aka Pooquie).

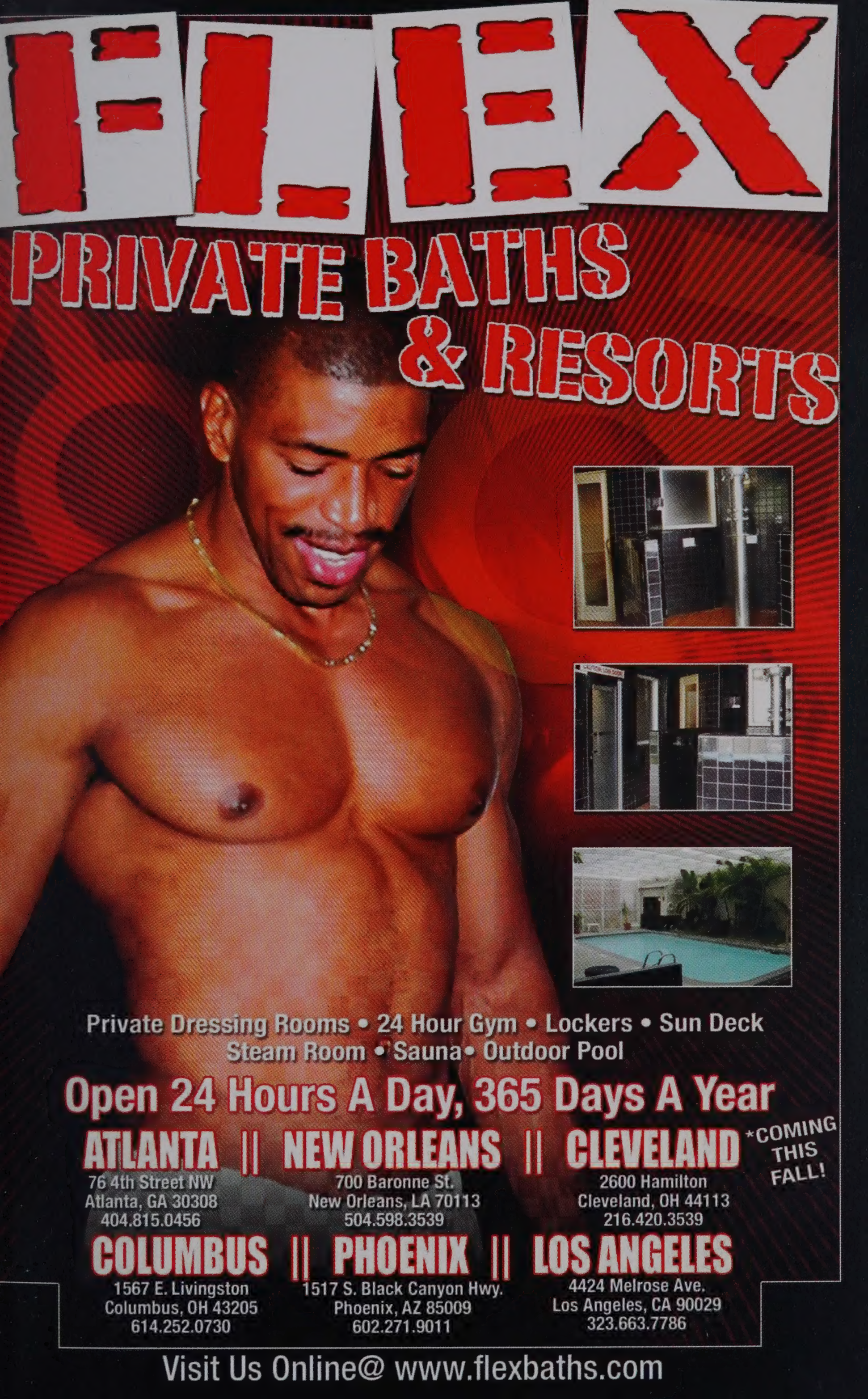
His efforts to musically state what he couldn't verbally may have been a bit too undercover for those debating how to remember him. Some believe it didn't and doesn't matter if Luther was gay (and, not surprisingly, they are usually heterosexual). Most disturbing are the comments from some African American SGL men who argue that, since Luther remained silent about his love life, we shouldn't claim him. But while Luther may not have been out in the classic sense, he didn't lead a "heterosexual lifestyle": He never declared that he was straight and only played Romeo to an invisible Juliet in the studio and on stage because of the strict heterosexist codes of the industry.

And while he could've officially come out since he'd already achieved legendary status, everyone doesn't want to be, can be, or has to be a spokesperson or activist. Instead of dismissing him for what he didn't represent, we should honor him for what he did. In addition to becoming the premiere soul balladeer of our time, ushering in the "Quiet Storm" format on Black radio, and keeping romance alive in pop music (and, in the process, schooling straight folks on the ways of love), he gave us music that we could sing to and for each other ("Here & Now" can be spun at both hetero and SGL weddings). He could only give what he could -- and what he did give, I am so thankful for.

He never said it. But, sometimes, he did sing it.



James Earl Hardy is the author of A House Is Not A Home, the sixth and final title in the bestselling B-Boy Blues series. He can be reached at jeh@jamesearlhardy.com.



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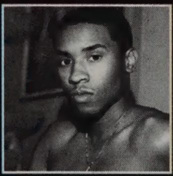

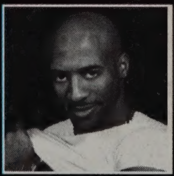

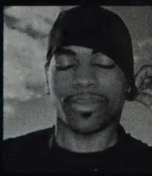

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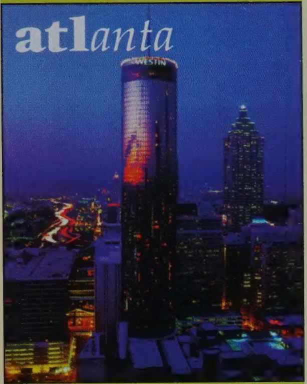

The youngest American city, **Atlanta**, as of late has become the Nation's greatest. This year at pride you are encouraged to explore the best that this fabulous Southern city has to offer. Take-in the hum of downtown's **The Underground**, the sophisticated shops at Lenox Square, dazzling nightlife of **Midtown**, and fuse with the counterculture in **Little Five Points**. For the first time ever, Clikque Magazine is unveiling it's **2005 Best of Atlanta**. With all that Atlanta has to offer, this was a task of humongous proportions. Here are our picks.

Places To Party @ Night

Lava Lounge

1 Atlanta Live (See pg 38)
3595 Clairmont Rd, Decalb

2 Atrium, The (See pg 38)
5479 Memorial Drive, Decatur

3 Bulldogs Bar/Club (See pg 40)
5479 Memorial Drive

4 Chaparral, The (See pg 42)
2715 Buford Hwy

5 Club 708 (See pg 36)
708 Spring Street, Midtown

6 Club 836 (See pg 6)
836 Juniper Street, Midtown

7 CoCo Loco (See pg 42)
1296 Morland Ave

8 Compound, The (See pg 46)
1008 Brady Ave

9 Cosmo / Lava Lounge (See pg 46)
57 13th Street, Midtown

10 Imperial, The (See pg 42)
5395 Jimmy Carter Blvd

11 Knights Hall (See pg 42)
2620 Buford Hwy

12 Jungle, The (See pg 42)
2115 Faulkner Rd

13 Phaze One (See pg 44)
4933 Memorial Drive, Decatur

14 Tower II (See pg 44)
735 Ralph McGill Blvd

Places Of Interest

A Centennial Olympic Park
B The Cnn Center
C Historic Sweet Auburn Ave
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E Underground Atlanta

F World Of Coca Cola

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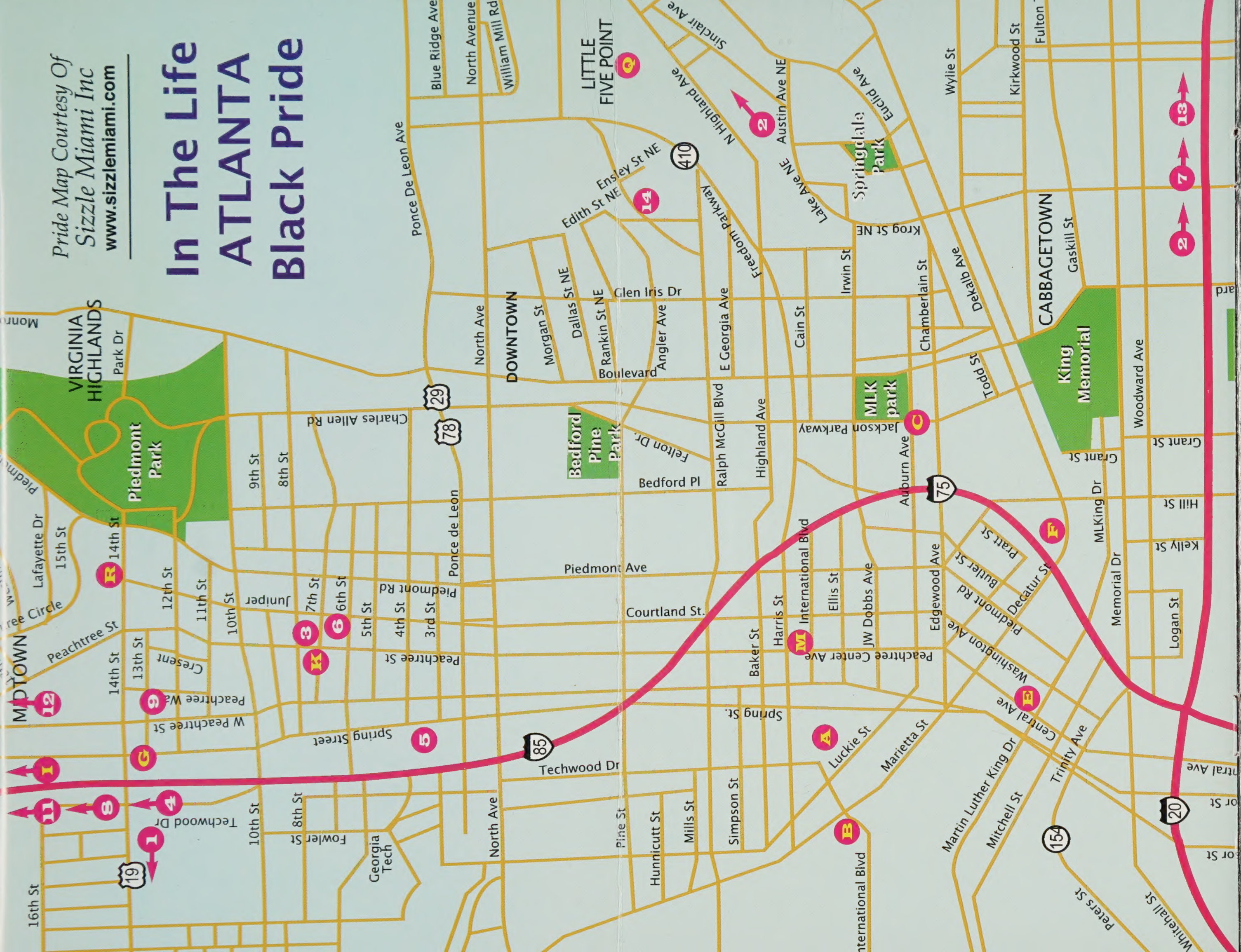
In The Life
ATLANTA
Black Pride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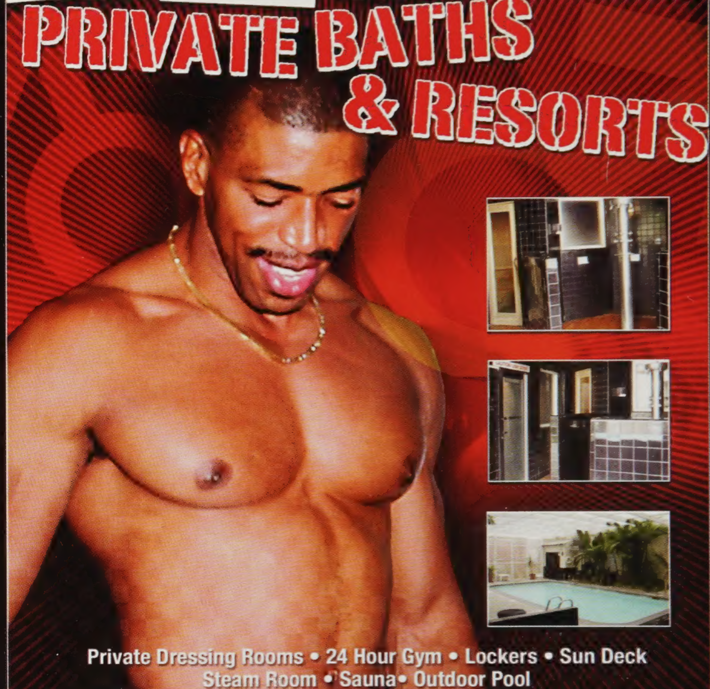

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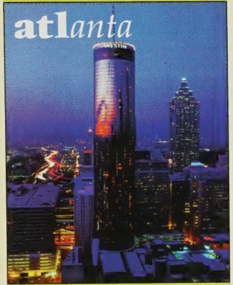

The youngest American city, **Atlanta**, as of late has become the Nation's greatest. This year at pride you are encouraged to explore the best that this fabulous Southern city has to offer. Take-in the hum of downtown's **The Underground,** the sophisticated shops at Lenox Square, dazzling nightlife of **Midtown**, and fuse with the counterculture in **Little Five Points**. For the first time ever, Clikque Magazine is unveiling it's **2005 Best of Atlanta**. With all that Atlanta has to offer, this was a task of humongous proportions. Here are our picks.

Places To Party @ Night

Lava Lounge

1 Atlanta Live (See pg 38)
3595 Clairmont Rd, Decalb

2 Atrium, The (See pg 38)
5479 Memorial Drive, Decatur

3 Bulldogs Bar/Club (See pg 40)
5479 Memorial Drive

4 Chaparral, The (See pg 42)
2715 Buford Hwy

5 Club 708 (See pg 36)
708 Spring Street, Midtown

6 Club 836 (See pg 6)
836 Juniper Street, Midtown

7 CoCo Loco (See pg 42)
1296 Morland Ave

8 Compound, The (See pg 46)
1008 Brady Ave

9 Cosmo / Lava Lounge (See pg 46)
57 13th Street, Midtown

10 Imperial, The (See pg 42)
5395 Jimmy Carter Blvd

11 Knights Hall (See pg 42)
2620 Buford Hwy

12 Jungle, The (See pg 42)
2115 Faulkner Rd

13 Phaze One (See pg 44)
4933 Memorial Drive, Decatur

14 Tower II (See pg 44)
735 Ralph McGill Blvd

Places Of Interest

A Centennial Olympic Park
B The Cnn Center
C Historic Sweet Auburn Ave
D MLK Center - 404-331-5190

E Underground Atlanta

F World Of Coca Cola

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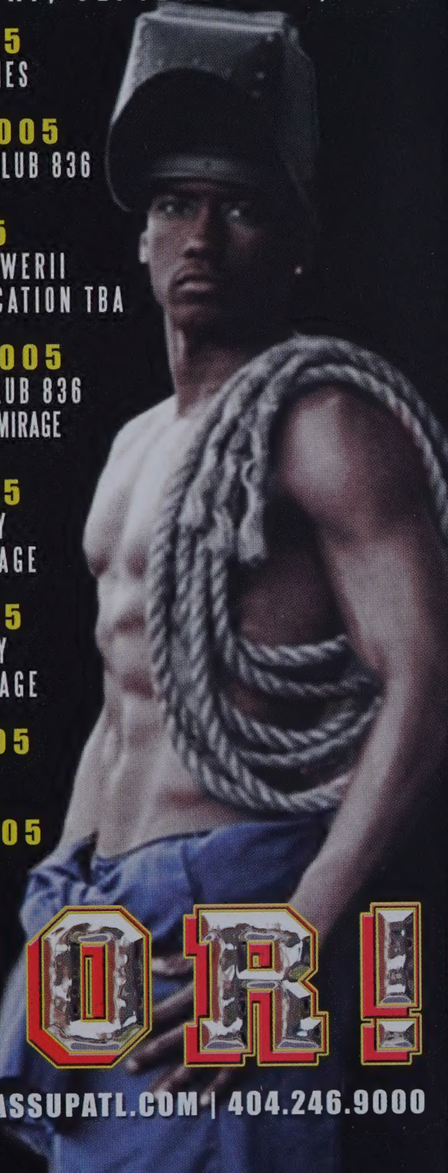

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SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 03, 2005
THE SCREW | SUPER SIZE SATURDAYS| CLUB 836
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OVERTIME | AFTER PARTY | CLUB MIRAGE

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 04, 2005
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EDITOR'S DESK

DWIGHT S POWELL

This issue, I will deviate a little from my usual blurb. As you may already know, Clikque is the only surviving national Black gay publication. Through all the rough times, we're here and still going strong. This is made possible in part by the advertisers and the hard work of the dedicated and loyal staff and writers.

We believe that Clikque is a very important and valuable product being offered to our community. The timely news, entertainment and information are a much-needed resource.

As I said earlier, Clikque is all we have right now, and I would like to encourage all of you to embrace and support it. If there is something about the magazine you like, we'll like to hear from you. Likewise, if there are issues and concerns that you make have as it pertain to our format, layout, content or lack there of, please, let us know. With your support, we can continue to make Clikque Magazine the best that it can be.

You may have noticed that all summer long we have been conducting a subscription drive campaign. We are trying to get this magazine in as many hands as possible. If you're not a current subscriber, I would like to invite you to become apart of the Clikque family... we promise to keep you informed about every thing and all happening in our community. If you are a current subscriber, I would be greatly appreciative if you would turn us on to as many of your friends as possible. We need the support of all of you. I am asking all of you that are reading this to shoot an email to everyone on your email list and direct them to our website: www.clikque.com

We hope that the pride map provided courtesy of Sizzle Miami Incorporated was of great use to you as you take-on Atlanta, during pride during the Labor Day Weekend. As a major sponsor of pride, this year we are please to again be working with In The Life Atlanta, the official pride organizers of pride in Atlanta. Support them by purchasing their ITLA Pride Passes on their official website www.Inthelifeatl.com

Finally, we are so excited about the VIP / Welcome reception that we will be hosting for ITLA on Friday 2nd September @ The Atrium On Sweet Auburn. This is a pre-club event that benefits ITLA, so be sure to get there early. Come and mingle with some of our national leaders, authors, activists and entertainers.

See you at the event and I hope that you enjoy this issue of Clikque.

Dwight Powell

Clikque MAGAZINE

Editor in Chief / Publisher
Dwight Powell
dwight@clikque.com

Art Direction
Dwight Powell

Graphic Artist
William Young

Sr. Staff Writers
Scott Bogan
Craig Washington

Music Reviews
T-Pro Mix

PHOTOGRAPHER
Malik L Williams

CONTRIBUTORS
Keith Boykin, Cleo Manago, James Earl Hardy, Herdon Davis, May Rowland, Anthony Antoine, Lou Chibbaro Jr., Elezabeth Greenberg, Robb Leigh Davis

FLORIDA OFFICE
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Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009

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mail@clikque.com

WEBSITE / EMAIL
www.clikque.com
Clikque1@aol.com

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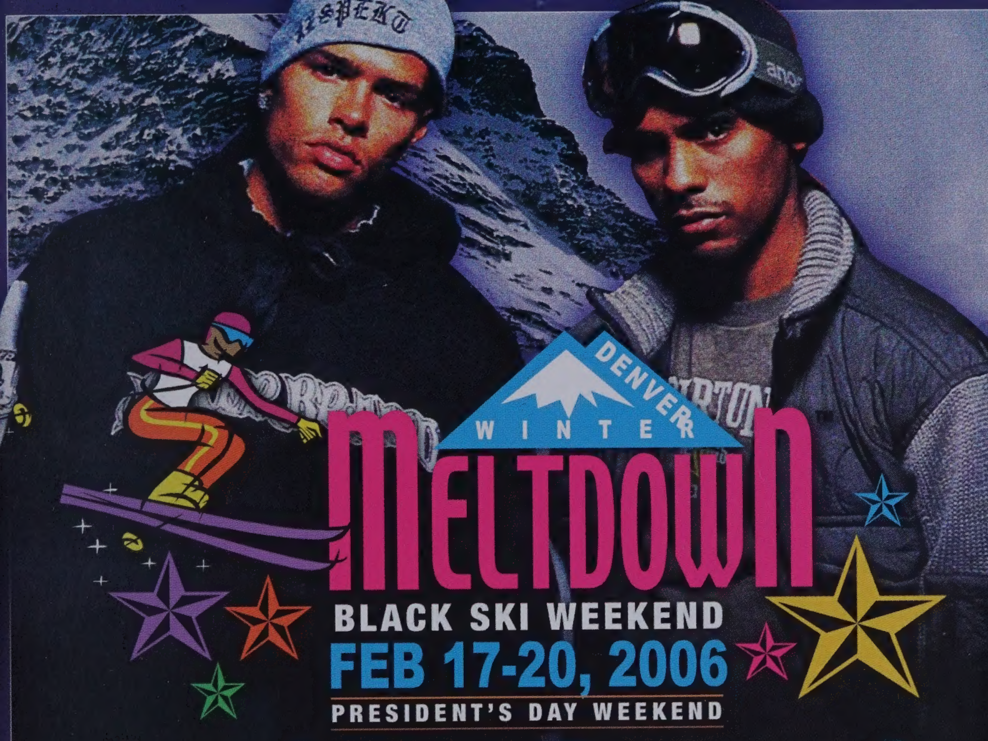

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ARTICLE BY ROBB LEIGH DAVIS

Gay Black Invisibility Explored

NYU panel looks at challenge of accurately portraying African-American gays and lesbians

In a cultural, if not political sense, the United States has made dramatic advances in recent years in recognizing its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT)citizens.

The panel last Friday at NYU discussing the invisibility of the African-American LGBT community in the media included: (l. to r.) GLAAD's Katina Parker, the Task Force's Jason Cooper, GLSEN's Riley Snorton, Freedom to Marry's Samiya Bashir, journalist Kai Wright, Ray Daniels of the National Black Justice Coalition, and filmmaker Maurice Jamal.

At the same time, there are many in the LGBT community who believe that the American public generally lacks a full grasp of the diversity within queer ranks. If that lack of awareness is to be effectively challenged, in whose hands does the responsibility lie?

On Friday, June 24, at New York University, Black Pride NYC teamed up with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to sponsor a panel discussion titled, "M.I.A.? Positive Black LGBT Images in Media."

The panel, moderated by Katina Parker, a media expert at GLAAD, featured filmmaker Maurice Jamal ("Ski Trip"); Samiya Bashir, communications director for the Freedom to Marry Coalition; Jason Cooper, senior field organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Riley Snorton, a spokesman for the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Ray Daniels, director of communications for the National Black Justice Coalition; and journalist Kai Wright.

"There's no doubt that we're there," said Bashir. "But it's always as the butt of a joke. We'll be on a sitcom, but never in a drama. There's never an attempt to show any sort of humanity. It's always stereotypical."

"Whether it's film, or television or the front page of a newspaper, people need to understand that this is a money-driven process," said Wright. "Artistry is nice, but at the end of the day, the people running these companies want to know if your story is going to bring money in the door. That's the reality. It's a business."

Most of the panelists agreed that what imagery does exist in the major media plays itself out in extreme cases of stereotyping that began with the snap queen and have now morphed into a fascination with 'the down low.' Several speakers argued that the media continues to criminalize black gay men as either sexually exotic but inherently dangerous creatures or as promiscuous sexual deviants spreading disease and destroying communities. The panelists credited black lesbians for providing role models as mothers and caregivers within both the black and gay communities, but said their image, when it is present at all, is typically limited either to the role of an aggressive bull dyke or as fodder for heterosexual male fantasy.

"The only people who can change this is us," said filmmaker Jamal. "Straight white people don't sit around and talk about gay issues. Gay white people do. We have to take charge of our images ourselves. Too many people, other than ourselves, are painting our picture. We have to paint our own canvas."

GLAAD's Parker echoed the sentiment that the community must hold itself responsible, discussing her mother's difficulty in accepting her daugh-

INVISIBILITY CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

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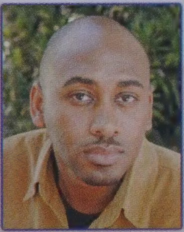

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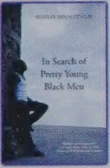
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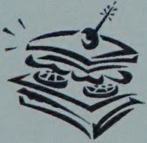

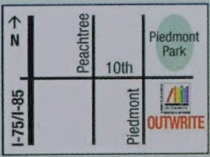
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ARTICLE BY ROBB LEIGH DAVIS

INVISIBILITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ter's sexuality.

"To my mother, gay meant the white men she sees on television, and all the good and bad that goes along with those images," Parker said. "She couldn't comprehend how her daughter, her baby, fit in with that vision."

Jason Cooper spoke of his experiences with the Task Force, going door-to-door in Atlanta doing voter outreach and encountering the attitudes that continue to prevail.

"People refused to believe that I was gay," he said. "I didn't fit the idea they had created in their head about what being black and gay means. One woman looked at me and said, 'You don't look like gay people. You look like my son.'"

The panelists gave a great deal of credit to LGBT youth of color, who are mobilizing in ways that generations before them never did.

"The young people are almost demanding control of their image and saying they refuse to be depicted in someone else's eyes," said GLSEN's Snorton. "And many of these youth are black and Latino who are simultaneously challenging ideas of race."

A difference in opinion amongst panelists and those the audience came when discussing the question of whether homophobia is more prevalent within the black community, with some seeing it as a smoke-and-mirrors tactic by the media to further divide the communities and others feeling that there is more truth to the statement than people are willing to acknowledge.

"People are more hostile when they can't see you," said Daniels of the National Black Justice Coalition. "But it stems more from ignorance than hatred. If they have nothing in their face challenging the thoughts that have been in their minds for years, it becomes extremely difficult to change their way of thinking."

Parker brought the evening to a close stressing the need for the black LGBT community to mobilize itself to counter the inroads that the religious right has made recently in aligning itself with the black church-going community across the nation.

"We must begin to put our own image out there, whether it's film, art, photography, snap queen or lesbian with a Ph. D.," Parker said. "We can't be heard, if we don't allow ourselves to be seen."

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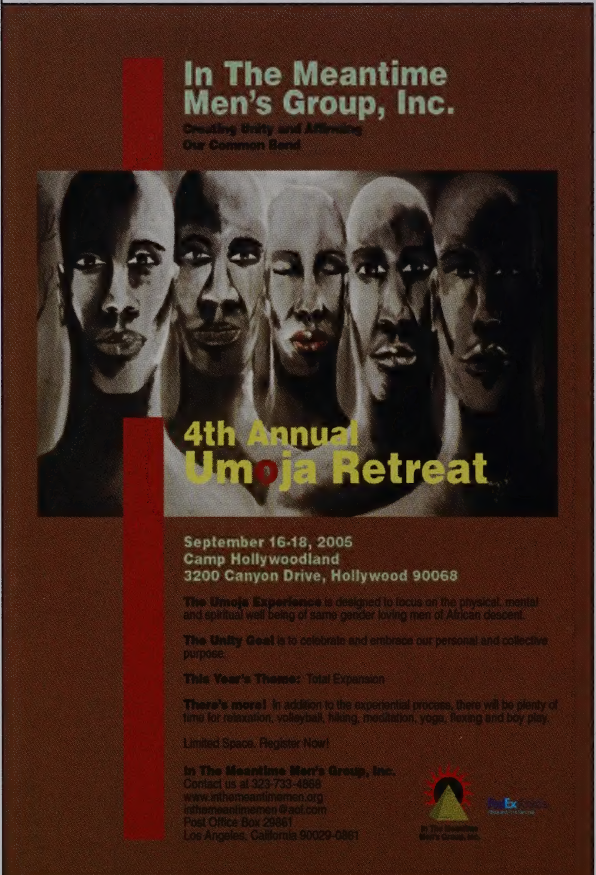

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By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

Bill to unite gay couples split by nationality

Measure would allow U.S. citizens to sponsor partners

Joanne, an illegal immigrant from Poland, fell in love with an American woman in 2003 when she was 21. When her family found out she was a lesbian, they threatened to have her deported.

The threat was made more frightening because American citizens and permanent residents cannot sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration benefits the way that straight married couples can. The Defense of Marriage Act prohibits gay couples from receiving the federal benefits of marriage, including immigration rights, even if they are legally married in Massachusetts, Canada or elsewhere.

But Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) recently introduced the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA), formerly the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, to allow same-sex "permanent partners" to stay together.

Leahy and Nadler were not available for comment this week.

The bill would create the new "permanent partner" category for immigration purposes only. Same-sex couples would be subject to the same evaluations that straight couples go through to verify authenticity of a relationship.

The current immigration restrictions have forced many "bi-national" gay couples – where the partners are from different countries – to move outside the United States to one of the 16 countries that provide immigration benefits for same-sex couples.

Gay citizens of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom can sponsor their same-sex partner for citizenship.

But Joanne and her partner want to stay in the United States. After her family's threat, they moved together to California, then back to New York, where they settled in Harlem. Joanne spoke to the Blade on the condition that her real name not be used.

Living in the shadows

Joanne's status puts her at risk, like so many illegal immigrants, of exploitation and limited employment options. Employers won't sponsor her because she doesn't have enough years of training or education, she said.

When Joanne worked at a laundromat in New York for $6 an hour, her boss withheld a week's pay when she told him she was quitting. She couldn't protest because of the familiar threat of deportation.

"I basically don't exist in this country," she said.

For lower-income people like Joanne, the immigration restrictions on gays hit hardest, according to Adam Francoeur, program coordinator for Immigration Equality, a group that advocates on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered immigrants.

There are two ways to access the immigration system, through family or employment, he said. The family option is largely unavailable to same-sex couples, so that leaves them with employment, which carries training and education requirements, Francoeur explained.

"An immigration system without the family unification option can extremely favor higher income individuals," he said.

Victoria Neilson, legal director of Immigration Equality, said the current laws rip families apart for no reason other than their sexual orientation. In fact, she said, having an American partner can be reason to deny a visa because foreign visitors have to show they do not intend to stay in the U.S. permanently.

"It has a devastating impact on families," she said.

The bill's chances of passage are unlikely, its supporters say. It has been introduced every year since 2000 and has never come to a vote, although Francoeur said it enjoys bipartisan support.

Those who oppose the bill often say it is a backdoor to gay marriage, he said. Focus on the Family, a conservative group that usually opposes any pro-gay bills, was not available for comment.

Others have criticized the measure because they claim it would open the floodgates and allow too many people entry to the country, Francoeur said. There are about 36,000 bi-national gay couples living in the U.S. according to a 2000 census, he said.

Jack Martin, spokesperson for the conservative group Federation for American Immigration Reform, said his group would lean against the legislation if it increased the number of immigrants in the U.S.

"Current immigration is too large, therefore any change that would have the effect of increasing immigration we would probably oppose," he said. "We haven't taken any specific position with regard to the specific bill."

'Two tough hurdles'

In today's conservative Congress, the UAFA has the double obstacle of being pro-immigrant and pro-gay.

"It's a pretty anti-immigrant Congress [and] a pretty anti-LGBT Congress," Neilson said. "Two tough hurdles to overcome."

NEWS CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

RELATIONSHIPS / IMMIGRATION

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The post-9/11 crackdown on immigrants has made it harder for bi-national same-sex couples. While some laws have stayed the same on paper, student and work visas of the type many gay couples use to stay together are now the subject of much closer scrutiny, said Francoeur. Also, employers are more reticent to sponsor foreign nationals.

"Extra scrutiny often leads to denial," Francoeur said.

That is just what happened when Shane, a British citizen, tried to visit his partner, Jeremy, an American citizen, in Georgia. Shane spoke on the condition that the Blade not use his or his partner's real name.

Frustrated by U.S. immigration rules, Shane and Jeremy moved to Britain in 2004 where they can establish permanent residency. After a same-sex couple lives together for two years, a British citizen can sponsor his partner, Shane said.

When they lived together in the U.S., Shane could only visit for 90 days at a time.

"For two years, I lived as a third-class citizen," he said. "I could be taken away from [Jeremy] at any stage."

Earlier this month on Jeremy's trip to the U.S., he asked Shane to come visit him. Shane flew in to Atlanta and, to his shock, was denied entry. He was told that on a previous visit he overstayed by one day but was not provided more details, Shane said.

He had the choice between being held in a detention center until a flight was available or buying a $5,000 first-class ticket home, he said.

"I was searched, detained, fingerprinted, photographed, had my passport marked, and returned on the next flight back to the United Kingdom," Shane wrote in a letter to an Atlanta newspaper.

The following day, two U.S. federal marshals went to Jeremy's home, interviewed him and requested his banking and employment information, according to Shane. The next time Jeremy flew into the U.S., he was pulled into a second room and asked if he had "anti-American sentiments," Shane said.

When asked how his experiences have influenced his opinion of the U.S., he said, "I've been really careful not to bash the country because my partner is American."

However, he added, "It astonishes me the way America acts like the freest country. ... We've struggled very hard just to stay together."

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg can be reached at eweill-greenberg@washblade.com.

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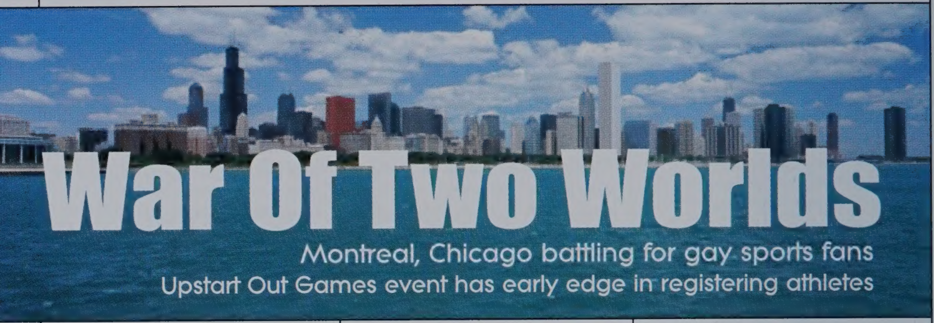

War Of Two Worlds

Montreal, Chicago battling for gay sports fans
Upstart Out Games event has early edge in registering athletes

A breakaway organization promoting an international gay and lesbian sports competition in Montreal in July 2006 called Out Games has registered more athletes and teams than its rival Gay Games event, which is set to take place in Chicago two weeks earlier.

But supporters of both events say it's too soon to determine which one will draw the most participants and spectators as both sides wage an aggressive campaign to sign up paid registrants.

The two sides are pushing their campaigns through upscale Web sites accessible in several languages. Elected officials and business leaders in both cities have joined the gay organizers to help promote the two events in an unprecedented effort to lure millions of gay tourist dollars to their hometowns.

At first, many gay sports enthusiasts predicted the two competing events would lead to a financial disaster for both and would dilute and split apart what had become a unified quadrennial gay event. Now, some are wondering whether the competition has triggered an unprecedented professionalism and such an overwhelming desire to come out ahead of the other that both events might turn out better than past Gay Games – both in attendance and the financial bottom line.

As of this week, officials with Out Games announced that 5,600 participants had registered and paid in full or in part to compete in the Montreal games, including at least 1,500 Americans. Gay Games officials said about 3,000 participants who paid their registration fees in full have signed up to participate in the Chicago events. Both sides said the participants who signed up come from more than 20 countries, with most expected to come from North America.

Each side predicts at least 12,000 participants will attend their respective events.

Competing for more than athletes

The two sides are also competing to line up gay choruses and bands from Europe and North America. In recent years, the Gay Games evolved into a cultural festival as well as an athletic event, with extravaganza performances by choruses, bands and top-name entertainers taking place at stadiums where the opening and closing ceremonies are held.

"We still don't know where most of our teams will go," said Brent Minor, president of Team D.C., an umbrella group that represents more than two-dozen D.C. area gay and lesbian sports teams and groups, ranging from soccer and golf to swimming and volleyball.

"Team D.C. voted to support our participants, whichever event they choose to attend," Minor said.

Minor said members of some of the D.C. teams, as well as teams in other cities, are taking a wait-and-see posture to determine which city will capture the top competition in a category of sporting event – such as soccer or swimming.

The San Francisco-based Federation of Gay Games, which was formed by the late gay Olympic athlete Tom Waddell in the 1980s, is credited with starting what has become known as an international gay and lesbian sports "movement." Waddell almost single-handedly put together the first Gay Games competition in San Francisco in 1982 following a legal ruling initiated by the International Olympics Committee that forced him to drop the name "Gay Olympics."

The gay international sporting competition continued every four years since that time under the Gay Games title, growing each year in numbers. The founding event in 1982 drew 1,350 gay and lesbian athletes mostly from North America and Europe, according to Roger Brigham, communications director for the Federation of Gay Games.

The number of participants jumped to 12,500 in New York City in 1994, climbed to a record 13,000 in Amsterdam in 1998 and dropped back to 11,000 in Sidney, Australia in 2002, Brigham said.

Shortly before the Sidney games were held, the FGG named Montreal the winner in a competition among gay sporting associations to sponsor the 2006 Gay Games. A short time later, the Montreal organizing committee, Montreal 2006, says it lined up generous sponsors from some of Canada's largest corporations and persuaded the governments of Montreal, Quebec, and the national Canadian government to sign on as "partners" to the event and to kick in $1 million each to help finance the games.

ARTICLE BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., Window Media

The committee called those developments historic, saying Canada's entire governmental establishment had endorsed and agreed to help subsidize an international gay sporting event.

What happened next takes on an entirely different perspective and interpretation among the Gay Games and Out Games leaders.

The Gay Games in Sydney, while hailed as a highly successful sports event, turned into a financial disaster, with millions of dollars in debt and gay and gay-friendly vendors left holding the bag with unpaid bills. Coming on the heels of similar financial problems with the previous two Gay Games in Amsterdam and New York, the FGG pushed through a series of rules changes that required the Montreal committee to turn over financial control of the event to the FGG. Up until that time, the committees for the host cities had full financial control over the events.

Former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury has taken a lead role in preparing for the first Out Games, scheduled for next summer in Montreal. (Photo by Ahn Young-Joon/AP)

Among other things, the FGG wanted Montreal to scale back its initial budget from 24,000 participants to 12,000, saying a 24,000 turnout appeared unrealistic and could lead to financial problems similar to Sydney's. FGG officials also requested that Montreal not link its sporting events to a planned international gay rights conference and to Montreal's annual Gay Pride event known as Diversité. In addition, the FGG objected to the Montreal committee's plans to link the Game Games to various circuit parties that have been associated with Diversité.

"This just came out of the blue after we put together a detailed and what we thought was a highly successful business plan," said Mark Tewksbury, an Olympic athlete and one of the Canadians organizing the Montreal Games.

Tewksbury and other leaders of Montreal 2006 called the FGG rule changes unfair. They point out that nearly all of Montreal's plans for the 2006 Gay Games – the projected 24,000 participants, the link to the Diversité Gay Pride festivities, and the international gay conference – were submitted to the FGG as part of Montreal's bid for the games. No one raised objections to any of these proposals at that time, Tewksbury said.

Brigham, the communications director for FGG, said the organization's international governing body, which includes representatives from nations in Europe and North America, approved the rules changes after assessing the financial problems encountered by Gay Games committees in New York, Amsterdam and Sydney.

"The income projections have always been overblown," he said. "We are concerned about hurting local gay businesses," he said, noting that gay-owned businesses that have provided services to help put on the games often have been stiffed when the committees run out of money.

Brigham said FGG officials also decided – based on what he said was consultation with gay sporting teams in North America and abroad – that the Gay Games should stick to its original role as a sports event, with some performing arts and cultural activities like gay chorus and band performances. Linking the games with other events such as circuit parties, political conferences, and Pride events – as proposed by Montreal – would not be consistent with the Gay Games and its "mission" to promote the gay sports movement, Brigham said.

According to Brigham, the FGG would have approved a larger budget to accommodate more than 12,000 participants later in the process, if Montreal succeeded in signing on more participants.

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Negotiations break down

Nearly two years of negotiations followed. Each side has disputed claims by the other over the reasons the negotiations ultimately broke down. In November 2003, Montreal 2006 stunned the gay sports establishment by saying it would hold its own international gay sports competition in Montreal on the dates initially designated for the Gay Games: July 29-Aug. 5, 2006.

The group announced later that it had formed a new entity - the Gay & Lesbian International Sports

GAY GAMES CONTINUES ON PAGE 18

ARTICLE BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., Window Media

GAY GAMES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Association – and would take bids for Out Games II in 2010.

In March 2004, the FGG named Chicago as the host city for the "official" 2006 Gay Games. A newly formed Chicago organizing committee, Chicago Games, Inc., has since formed and hired gay corporate executive and past Gay Games athlete Brian McGuinness as CEO of the new organization. McGuinness is a Chicago native who learned to speak French while serving for three years as finance director for an international media company based in Paris, the Chicago Games Web site says.

With Montreal working hard to attract European participation, Chicago Games has been touting McGuinness's international background and finance skills in what is shaping up as a heated public relations campaign between the two cities.

The Chicago mayor and the Illinois governor has each endorsed the Gay Games, and Chicago's business establishment and Chamber of Commerce are pulling out all the stops to promote the event, said Kevin Beyer, chair of the Chicago Games Marketing Committee.

Decathlete Tom Waddell, shown here preparing for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, helped organize the first Gay Games in 1982. Waddell died in 1987. (File photo by AP)

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Last year, Montreal 2006 hired Rachel Corbet as executive director of Montreal 2006. Corbet has extensive experience working with international sports events in Canada and Europe. Like McGuinness, she has a growing staff of full-time employees and comfortable office space in a prestigious downtown office building to help her promote the Out Games events.

Corbet said she is hopeful that both events will be successful but predicted the Out Games would surpass the Gay Games in future years to become the main international gay sporting competition. She dismissed calls by some Gay Games supporters that Out Games should become a North American gay sports competition similar to the yearly Euro Games, which are held each year except during the year of the Gay Games.

She predicts the opposite might happen – that the Gay Games will shrink in participation and be forced to limit its role to North American teams.

"It is hard for a lot of GLBT people to come to the U.S.," she said, pointing to U.S. immigration policies that ban people with HIV from entering the country unless they get a special waiver. She also points to hostility toward the U.S. war in Iraq and to President Bush in general by many Europeans. With Canada's decision this year to legalize same-sex marriage and with Montreal's reputation for being North America's most gay-friendly city, Corbet said, Montreal is likely to attract far more participants from countries outside of North America.

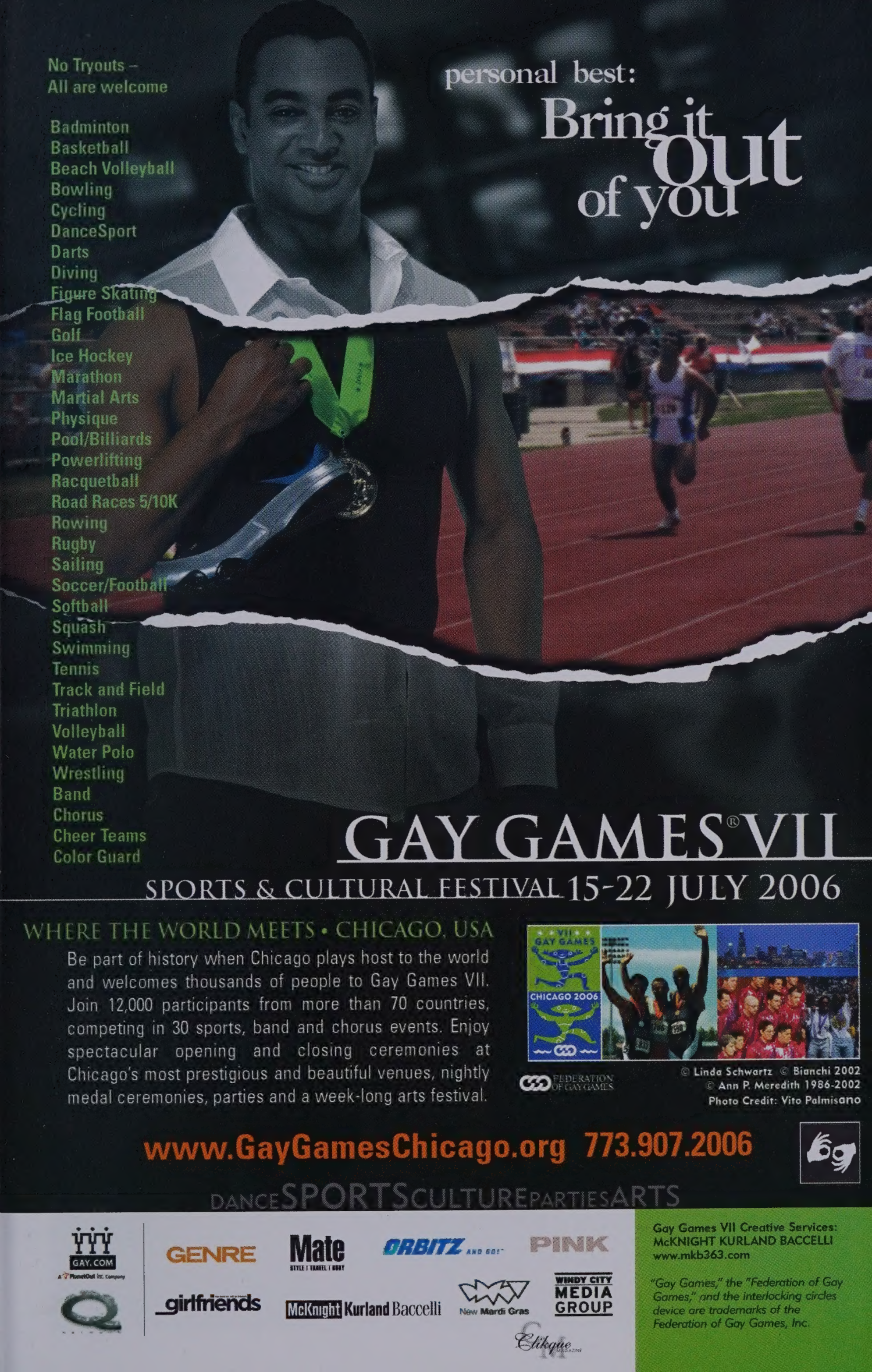
Boyer and Brigham strongly dispute this assessment. The two note that the U.S. routinely waives its immigration restrictions for people with HIV for special events like the Gay Games. They point to Chicago's reputation as a gay-friendly city, with a large gay community and pro-gay laws.

Live broadcasts planned

Boyer said another draw for Chicago is the decision by the newly formed gay cable television network, QTV, to provide live television coverage of the Gay Games for six-to-eight hours a day for the entire eight-day event. QTV is waiving its fee for the game by unscrambling its channel to allow any cable TV subscriber to watch the games if their local cable company carries the QTV network, Boyer said.

"Yes, there is competition between these events," Boyer said.

He said the gay sports movement has grown dramatically in the U.S. and Europe since the last time a U.S. city has hosted the Gay Games in 1994. With thousands more participating in gay sports competitions in their home cities and countries, there could be ample participation to push the attendance in both Chicago and Montreal to more than 12,000.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COMMENTARY

OP-ED SUBMISSION BY CLEO MANAGO

On Luther Vandross, Gay-Identity and Black men. It's time that yawl get it!

This is article that was originally written to the Washington Blade. They are 1 of 6 publications that printed an article on Luther the same story. Those publications owned by Window Media.

In two recent articles Blade writers referenced that Luther Vandross never identified as gay, and no well known African American has. I think it is time that the traditional, gay-identity biased lens on homosexuality be challenged. So that engagement of other ways of being and identifying can respectfully take place. I have spent time with Vandross. If he, like James Baldwin (who identified as homosexual, not gay), or my self, like so many Black men, do not identify as gay, then we are not! Similarly, if a homosexual woman does not identify as gay (a term conceived by often sexist and racist White homosexual males), but as lesbian, then she is not gay! I, personally, have never had qualms with my homosexuality. Yet, I have never resonated with gay culture, most of the White faces [still] representing gay, or with gay media or symbology (German triangles, Greek lambdas, a rainbow-flag with no Black stripe, etc.). Most of this is White or European in origin, and does not affirm me. Sure, a number of African Americans are less concerned about cultural affirmation and connection. They assimilate and accept whatever White folks or the mainstream decides. And there are people like me, millions, who are Black, bisexual or homosexual and just do not 'feel' "gay" as relevant - at all - to who we are. Terms like same-gender-loving (SGL), homothug, homie-sexual and even the horrid "Down Low" were born out of Black people preferring to identify and embrace ourselves as homo/bi people of African descent.

One barely addressed (in traditional gay circles) factor regarding Black apprehension to gay-identify is that society provides little space that affirms same-gender-loving (SGL) Black folks. Gay culture certainly does not. For many of us tokenism or being a "special subject" ain't enough. Maybe if it had ever been clear to Luther that those asking "are you gay" would respectfully interpret how he loved in ways affirming of his culture and worldview, he may have been more responsive. Given the scandalous way in which he is being discussed in gay publications, following his death, why he would be apprehensive has been re-revealed. I relate to Vandross, in that, if and when someone asks me if I am gay. Without hesitation I say no. Because I am not.

When space is finally made for the authentic affirmation of human diversity, more people, Black people in this instance, may be compelled to "openly" tell our same-gender-love stories.

COMMENTS

I completely understand about not identifying with gay culture as it is represented in the media and in many folks minds. But when someone asks you if you are gay, and you say "no" do you correct them to say "I am same gender loving" or do you just walk away from or end the conversation?

If folks ask if I am gay, I say yes, despite the fact of how I disagree with how "gay" is portrayed in this country and perhaps most of the world. But when I am asked this question, I answer the part of the question that is asking, "who is it that I chose to love," not the inference that I subscribe to gay pop culture. Anything less of an answer from me, I would feel as though I were deliberately being deceitful.

-Londell Jackson

In a way, it is deceitful but only in the eyes of the person asking the question. I say this because they hold certain assumptions about what "gay" is. That it may or may not apply to you as an individual is irrelevant to them. People don't ask, "are you gay" simply to find out if you sleep with men. They want to know if you are effeminate, if you drag, if you vogue, if you consider yourself "less than a man", they

Cleo Manago is an activist, writer, instructor, musician, and social architect. Manago is the founder of the Black Men's Xchange (BMX), an "Africentric" national communications clearinghouse and support system for the empowerment of Black men of diverse sexual/intimate expression. He is also founder of the African-American AIDS, Support-Services & Survival Institutes, Inc. (AMASSI) in Oakland and Inglewood, California.

want to know, pointedly, if you align yourself with a subculture that (for all intents and purposes) excludes you from most participation.

Refusing to take up the mantle of the word "gay" is oppositional. It's about claiming your identity for yourself. Most of the "straight" world thinks along very narrow lines, usually rooted in a white supremacist way of thinking. This means that whether they know it or not, they fundamentally don't understand choosing to call yourself anything other than "gay". Their assumption is that if you don't fit into the "straight" world, then you must fit into the "gay" world. Both those "worlds" are sustained by white folks, white interests. This is not inherently a bad thing, but what happens is that both "gay" and "straight" folks get confused if you want to have "a black same-gender loving" world. Because opposition to them is separatism. And that's offensive to them.

To be more direct in answering your question, no it is not deceitful. Because if you don't consider yourself to be a part of all the things that "gay" means to much of society, you have the right to redefine yourself. The problem with people thinking it's deceitful is because in this country there is a tendency to define things very narrowly and white folks (even otherwise wonderful nice liberal white folks) usually get to do all the defining and get thrown off when such definitions (which are fluid) are opposed.

There is nothing wrong with creating your own identity.

–Tyler Lewis

Throughout history we have always been forced to assimilate to "white" terms and their social constructs. Historically and in the present, the term "gay" has become associated with "white" because even though we all share a common oppression that stems from our sexual orientation, white people are still able to align with their race to hold positions of power. When all of a sudden they "gay community" starts a gay marriage rights movement and we are of use to them, they expect us to conform to the term "gay" even though we have strategically been excluded from the community from the very beginning. It is this expectation that frustrates me most.

Rather than conforming to their terms I offer the solution of re-defining what the term "gay" means for our communities so that we do not feel that we are yet again conforming to their standards and definitions "bestowed" upon us. I have many African American friends who are completely comfortable with their sexuality but still do not identify as "gay." I agree that we don't always have to have a "term or category" to define ourselves, but uniting around an identity that WE define and relate to can be empowering beyond belief. Being a South Asian "gay" (I still use the term loosely) man, I have seen the beginning of how powerful uniting around this identity can be as we define it. Our communities that are ordinarily divided by religion (Hindu's, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians) have broken their boundaries and borders to organize around a common experience. That is the power of identity. We can not scrap the concept of defining our experience all together. Otherwise we are isolated in the web of complexity that hinders our identity development as "gay" people of color. This entanglement has both an indirect and direct relationship to the depression, HIV, and health outcomes that infringe our communities disproportionately.

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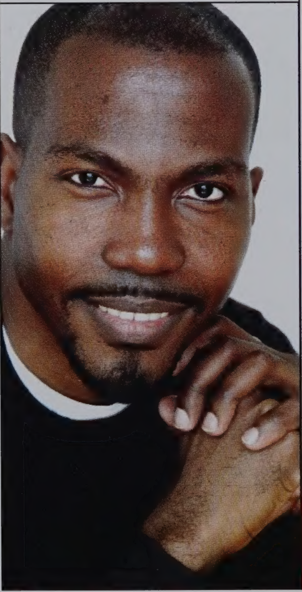
BY: HERNDON L DAVIS

GOD IS A REPUBLICAN — AND — JESUS IS A DEMOCRAT

Insiders from within the Kingdom of Heaven report that there,s been a rift in the family of divinity, which threatens to literally tear its earthy family apart. Apparently, the patriarch of life, the most High Father himself, God, has recently aligned himself with staunch political conservatives and is now believed to be a card caring member of the GOP.

However, God,s son, Jesus is rumored to be more of a moderate liberal and has wrapped himself tightly in a blue democratic cloth, standing for a kindler, gentler and more progressive tone across the world. Their stark differences of political beliefs has caused a rumble in heaven as witnessed by several severe weather patterns occurring across the world.



Angels in heaven are reportedly taking sides as this Father-Son feud continues to escalate on issues concerning homosexuality, gay rights, abortion, reproductive rights, the Iraq War, safe-sex education in public schools, social security overhaul, judicial appointments, affirmative action, and women in the clergy, among several other political/spiritual hot buttons.

This clear split in ideology and political affiliations of God and Jesus is rumored to have been caused by an elite and empowered group of earthly clergyman, businessmen, career politicians, and higher income bracket individuals. They pray, worship, and aggressively hold on to literal beliefs of Old Testament teachings where God is described as being firm, decisive, strict, and black-and-white with no room for gray while bathing themselves in the New Testament with Jesus, blood of redemption and unconditional love for themselves.

Meanwhile, formerly oppressed groups such a blacks, women, gays/lesbians, and the financially and socially impoverished, oten pray, worship and aggressively embrace spiritual teachings of the New Testament of Jesus; a figure who stood for liberation, social justice, compassion, and unconditional love for everyone regardless of race, gender, income, or sexual orientation.

Both groups have been lobbying and petitioning God and Jesus separately, not really realizing that they,re one in the same. In addition, both groups claim to be doing the will of this heavenly Father-Son duo, but actually what has resulted is a deeply divided nation of blue and red states on nearly every socioeconomic issue known to man.

A series of peace talks between God and Jesus is being mediated by the Holy Spirit early next week to determine how best the world should apply their joint teachings, inclusive of both Testaments so that individuals are able to seek and understand the spiritual meaning of their collective word.

Even further, another priority during the God-Jesus conference, will be to strategize how best to educate clergy and laity alike on how to interpret scripture within its original 1st and 2nd century culture and language.

As yet another election year draws closer, the Angels in heaven are making repairs in heaven from the damage done by its earthly conservative family members, attempted divide and conquer invasion.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, one Angel is quoted as saying „if people of faith down there don,t get right soon, there will be hell to pay!‰

Herndon Davis is author of the inspirational/spirituality book, Black Gay & Christian as well as its follow-up, "Black Gay Spiritual Warfare" scheduled for release in Fall 2005. He has been spotlighted, highlighted, and profiled nationally and internationally in television, radio, print and internet media.

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BY MARY ROWLAND

What you need to know about the most basic estate planning document

What happens if I die without a will?

If you don't make a will or use some other legal method to transfer your property when you die, state law will determine what happens to your property. Generally, it will go to your spouse and children or, if you have neither, to your other closest relatives. (If you are part of an unmarried same-sex couple, the survivor will not inherit anything unless you live in one of the few states that allows registered domestic partners to inherit like spouses: California, Maine, and Vermont.) If no relatives can be found to inherit your property, it will go into your state's coffers.

In addition, in the absence of a will, a court will determine who will care for your young children and their property if the other parent is unavailable or unfit.

Do I need a lawyer to make my will?

Probably not. Making a will rarely involves complicated legal rules, and most people can draft their own will with the aid of a good self-help book or software program. You just need to know what you own and who you care about, and have a good self-help resource to guide you.

But if you have questions that aren't answered by the resource you're relying on, it's worth it to see a good lawyer. You don't have to turn over the whole project; simply ask your questions and then finish making your own will.

I don't have much property. Can't I just make a handwritten will?

Handwritten, unwitnessed wills, called "holographic" wills, are legal in about 25 states. To be valid, a holographic will must be written and signed in the handwriting of the person making the will; in some states it must also be dated. Some states allow you to use a fill-in-the-blanks form if the rest of the will is handwritten and the will is properly dated and signed.

A holographic will is better than nothing if it's valid in your state. But a will signed in front of witnesses is better. If a holographic will goes before a probate court, the court may be unusually strict when examining it to be sure it's legitimate. And if you don't have guidance -- from a good self-help resource or a good lawyer -- it's easy to write something that turns out to be ambiguous or even contrary to what you intended.

Can I use my will to name somebody to care for my young children in case someday I can't?

Yes. If both parents of a child die while the child is still a minor, another adult -- called a "personal guardian" -- must step in. The personal guardian will be responsible for raising your children until they become legal adults.

You and the child's other parent can use your wills to nominate someone to fill this position. To avert conflicts, you should each name the same person. If a guardian is needed, a judge will appoint your nominee as long as he or she agrees that it is in the best interest of your children.

What makes a will legal?

Any adult of sound mind is entitled to make a will. Beyond that, there are just a few technical requirements a will must fulfill:

- The document must expressly state that it's your will.
- You must date and sign the will.
- The will must be signed by at least two, or in Vermont, three, witnesses. The witnesses must watch you sign the will, though they don't need to read it. Your witnesses, in most states, must be people who won't inherit anything under the will. (If your state allows "holographic" wills, you don't need witnesses.

You don't have to have your will notarized. In many states, though, if you and your witnesses sign an affidavit (sworn statement) before a notary public, you can help simplify the court procedures required to prove the validity of the will after you die.

Can I leave property to young children in my will?

Children under 18 can inherit property -- but if it's anything valuable, an adult must manage it for them. You can use your will to name someone to manage property you leave to minors, avoiding the need for a court to appoint and supervise a guardian. Here are four simple ways to structure a property management arrangement:

1 Name a custodian under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act. In every state except South Carolina and Vermont, you can choose someone, called a custodian, to manage property you are leaving to a child. The custodian will step in to manage the property until the child reaches the age specified by your state's law -- 18 in a few states, 21 in most, 25 in several others.

2 Set up a trust for each child. You can use your will to create a trust for any property the child inherits, and name someone (called a trustee), to handle the trust property until the child reaches the age you specify.

3 Set up a "pot trust." If you have more than one child, you may want to set up just one trust for all of them. This arrange-

ment is usually called a pot trust. The trustee decides what each child needs, and spends money accordingly.

5 Name a property guardian. If you simply name a property guardian for your child, this person will manage whatever property the child inherits, if there's no other mechanism (a trust, for example) to handle it.

Must my will leave something to my spouse and children?
Disinheriting spouses. The law protects surviving spouses from being left with nothing. If you live in a community property state (Alaska (only if you have made a written community property agreement), Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin), your spouse automatically owns half of all the property and earnings (with a few exceptions) acquired by either of you during your marriage. You can leave your half of the community property, and your separate property, to anyone you choose.

In all other states, a surviving spouse has a legal right to claim a portion of your estate, no matter what your will provides. But these provisions kick in only if your spouse goes to court and claims that share.
If you don't plan to leave at least half of your property to your spouse, either through your will or outside it, you should consult a lawyer – unless your spouse willingly consents in writing to your plan.

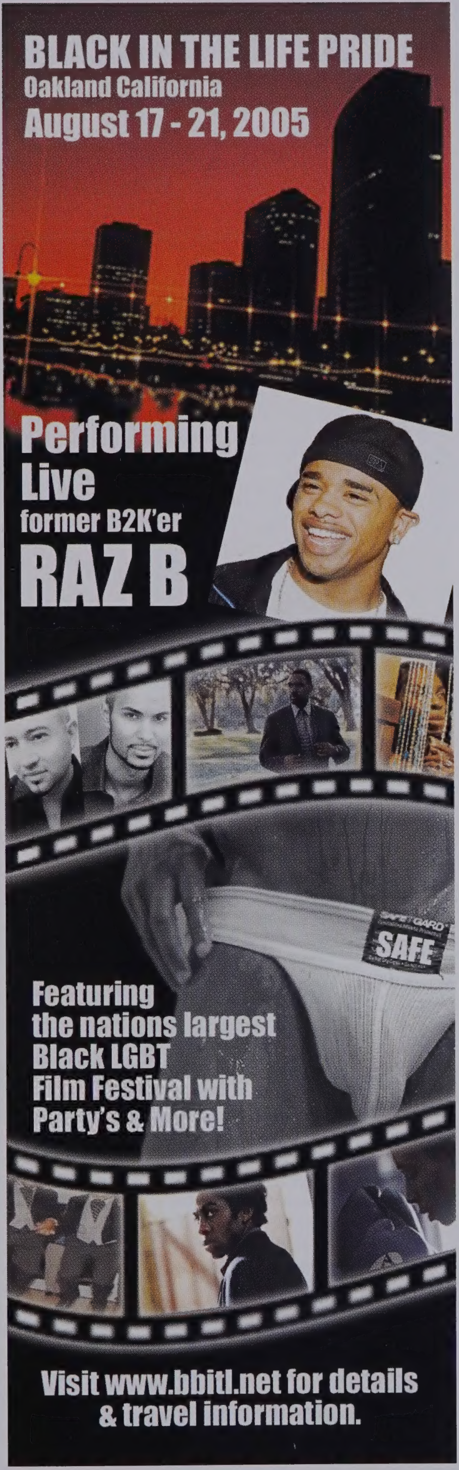
Disinheriting children. Generally, it's perfectly legal to disinherit a child. If, however, it appears that you didn't mean to disinherit a child – the most common example is a child born after you made your will – then the child has the right to claim part of your property. Some states go further. For example, the Florida Constitution prohibits the head of a family from leaving his residence to anyone other than a spouse if he is survived by a spouse or minor child.

Do I need to file my will with a court or in public records somewhere?

No. A will doesn't need to be recorded or filed with any government agency, although it can be in a few states. Just keep your will in a safe, accessible place and be sure the person in charge of winding up your affairs (your executor) knows where it is.

Can someone challenge my will after I die?

Very few wills are ever challenged in court. When they are, it's usually by a close relative who feels somehow cheated out of a share of the deceased person's property. To get an entire will invalidated, someone must go to court and prove that it suffers from a fatal flaw: the signature was forged, you weren't of sound mind when you made the will, or you were unduly influenced by someone.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Anthony Antoine

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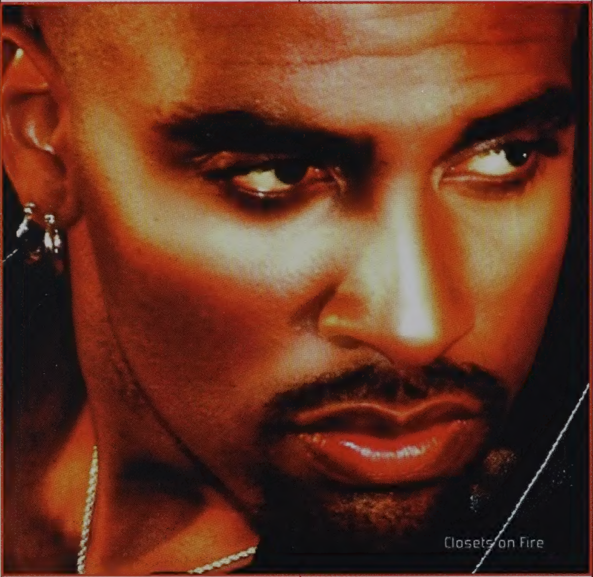
The premiere jewel of unsigned and independent artists, Anthony Antoine is taking his music and mission to another level with the release of his groundbreaking CD Closets On Fire. Newark, New Jersey native Anthony Antoine , which is his birth-given first and middle name is delivering a compelling first full-length effort that celebrates themes of unabashed sexuality and empowerment all while encouraging dance to overcome adversity. The result is radio and club ready hits sure to lead to major Billboard success.



On Closets On Fire and the EP supporting the CD, Songs From My Closet , Anthony Antoine tackles a host of issues and boldly promotes experiences often not addressed in popular music. With influences including the songwriting skills of Babyface to the courage and musical activism of Me'Shelle Ndegeocello or Madonna, Anthony 's music has been described as a voice for a silenced community, a substantial record buying community who want to hear songs that reflect the morale and spirit of which they live.

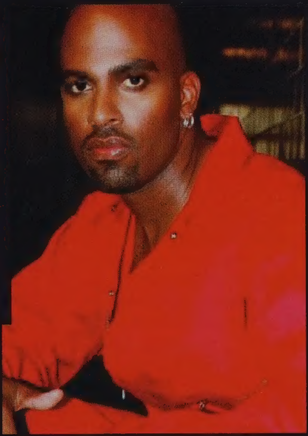
Currently living in Atlanta, Anthony has been producing music now for over ten years and "performing since birth" he laughs and has had time to develop his craft while establishing a personal internal integrity that now reflects within his songs. In the hip-hop era of "keepin' it real" and against scores of new artists that are mere reproductions ofother artists, Antoine "keeps it real" like too few artist before him. Anthony Antoine has found his audience by self-producing and distributing his own music without record label dollars and support. The result is an unfiltered truth and innovation of popular music clearly ready for major label distribution and sales.

The self-proclaimed child of eighties music began his industry career after a gutsy move to London, England at the age of seventeen. "I wanted to create a story to tell for my life similar to young Madonna's move to New York." His move, what Anthony considers his "college years", placed him immediately in the heart of London's music scene where Anthony became a top session vocalist. Anthony worked with some of London's best including Paul Hardcastle, producer of the Billboard Top 20 hit "19" and Anthony 's first single, "Swing" by The Deff Boyz featuring Tony Mac: one of Anthony 's pseudonyms derived from players of the European music scene insisting that the American boy with the American accent in London should rap. "Swing" became an international dance club hit charting Top 40 on Billboard's Dance Chart and broke Top 40 on numerous European charts.

Over the next few years, Anthony lived much of his dreams of pop stardom becoming a recognizable artist in Europe releasing two more singles under the pseudonym Truth Anthony: his first, independent ZYX Record's EP release What's Goin' Down , and the jazz influenced, Island Records' single "Under Your Spell" with London based international jazz artist Ronny Jordan. With songs in radio rotation, videos on MTV and a strenuous European tour schedule including opening act for C&C Music Factory, Anthony considers these years of his career as laying the foundation for his home in the music industry today.

After six years in Europe, Anthony returned to the United States where these "college years" in London, and his subsequent graduating with honors from The Art Institute in Dallas, laid the seeds for the artist he is today. The initial capture of Anthony 's new outlook in life and song became most apparent in his fourth and most ambitious effort "Dante's Got A Man Too." Similar to the spirit that energized James Brown, Aretha Franklin and so much music that paralleled the Black Struggle in the 60's, Anthony's fourth release plays like a soundtrack of triumph in the face of his experienced life adversity. That spirit continues with the already released Songs From My Closet and the spring 2004 release of Closets on Fire , Anthony Antoine 's dream CD three years in the making.

Closets On Fire 's opening song "Raise" encourage listeners to grab the freedom that will release oppression in one's life. "The Consequence" asks a deceptive girlfriend what should be the consequence of cheating as he suggests making her body disappear forever as did his hopes and dreams of their now-failed relationship. Anthony's favorite on the CD, "Curiosity and The Hennessey" plays with a lover that uses intoxication, not sexuality as an excuse for habitual sex drive-bys. A highlight of the CD is the throw-back and infectious grove, "I Got The Moves". Anthony recorded this song with his baby's momma and lifetime best friend DanaLee singing the vocal hook, and their daughter Vogue Ashley doing an impressive guest rap vocal. It's a family affair jam and a testament to the integrity of Anthony Antoine as a man and an artist.



"I'm recording the album that I've always wanted to record: energetic, empowering, emotional and hit songs from start to finish." Anthony Antoine proudly explains this project as "me on CD. I'm using music to tell my story. Everyone, regardless of our differences, will be able to find something that resonates with him or her on this project."

If music is the universal language then this not-so-new artist Anthony Antoine speaks it fluently with Closets On Fire , the innovative CD revealing songs cleverly designed to find its unique space in music history but packaged and promoted in a way that is accessible to today's sophisticated music consumer

Clikque Has 18 Questions for Independent Recording Artist and Atlanta's Own Anthony Antoine

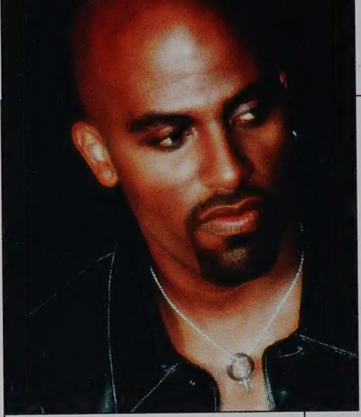
Why 18 Questions? It mirrors how many songs are on his new CD "Closets on Fire." Anthony explains, "there's a song for every year that a full length CD effort was my goal. 18 is my magic number right now."

1. WHERE ARE YOU FROM? I'm a Brick City baby. Newark's(NJ)in the house! But Atlanta is home.

2. WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? Hang out with my daughter Vogue and her friends. A great day for me is taking her to the movies or us chilling in the house together watching old episodes of American Idol.

ON FIRE CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

CLOSETS ON FIRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28



3. GOING TO MOVIES OR BLOCKBUSTER NIGHTS? It's the movies when I'm hanging with my crew of friends but I would always choose a Blockbuster night to get intimate. Actually, what do we need a movie for when we can create one of our own, that's the best nights.

4. Boxers or briefs? Neither really. Most days, I just like to hang. But I love underwear when dressing up. I especially love a pair of white Calvin Klein boxers, makes me feel clean and sanctified.

5. WHICH DECADE OF MUSIC DO YOU PREFER, THE 80'S, 90'S OR NOW? 80's Music was the best! I love music videos, synth music, Michael and Janet Jackson. And Sheila E. with "The Glamorous Life" album is from the 80's so surely 80's music is my favorite.

6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEAL? Seafood or the first single from "Closets on Fire." *wink*

7. WHAT ANIMAL CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR PERSONALITY? WHY? A puppy pitbull, cute and cuddly but can be trained to fight if necessary.

8. WHAT SUPERHERO CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR PERSONALITY? WHY? Wonder Woman because she ruled with the male superheroes effortlessly and I think women and gay men have a lot in common, especially in our struggle for social justice. My mom is a real life Wonder Woman and I strive to be a lot like my mom.

9. NAME 3 TV SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE TO WATCH? Will and Grace, Sex and the City and American Idol Season 3.

10. WHAT IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE? Use to be "Set It Off" but Quinton rocked that with "Kill Bill Vol. 1."

11. YOU'RE STUCK ON AN ABANDONED ISLAND, WHAT 4 THINGS DO YOU TAKE WITH YOU? My new CD "Closets on Fire" to remember a huge life accomplishment, my Jennifer Hudson (AI Season 3) demos *wait til you hear these songs - this girl is our time's best vocalist*, nude photos (Raz B of B2K, Lenny Kravitz, Dennis Rodman) to help with the lonely nights on an abandoned island and a picture of my daughter Vogue to remember the love of my life.

12. WHAT ARE 2 OF YOUR FAVORITE ALBUMS? Aretha Franklin's "Sparkle" and Stevie Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life." This music is timeless.

13. WHAT PERSON LIVING OR DEAD WOULD YOU WANT TO HAVE A SITDOWN DISCUSSION WITH? It would have to be Oprah Winfrey or Luther Vandross. I've had sit down discussions with many people that I thought I never would, Sheila E. included which use to be my answer to this question. But it seriously hurts my heart that I never had a "kee-kee" with Luther.

14. WHY SHOULD WE BUY YOUR NEW CD? It's passionate music FUBU - for us, by us. It's a testimony that dreams do come true. I've worked for 18 years to have a full length CD and I continue to get my hustle on when it comes to producing and promoting songs created for us. It's not often that we will have a chance to support our own. And these songs speak to our lives, our experiences without changing pronouns. And it's good music, a damn good CD.

15. IF YOU WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU'D DO? I'd ship all homophobes to fight the war in Iraq and bring our troops home, legalize all gay marriages and make gay marriage constitutional and have a mandatory investigation and recount of American Idol's Season Three votes. Fantasia - I love you but Jennifer Hudson is on the way!

16. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO GET INTO THE RECORDING GAME? "You can do you better than anyone. So do you! We don't need another R.Kelly or Beyonce. Do you, cause no one can do you better. There's only one Anthony Antoine."

17. WHAT'S YOU'RE FAVORITE QUOTE? "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, but must be demanded by the oppressed," Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated. And my close friend Craig Washington states on my new CD "Closets on Fire" that "People are never really ready, the larger society is never really ready for social change. You just have to grab it, seize it, take it. And people will get ready, people will catch up." Both of these quotes motivate me as an artist and inspires why I do what I do in music.

18. HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND? There's a performance or two lined up independently and with The Adodi Muse. Naturally, there's a number of clubs to attend and selling my new CD "Closets on Fire" will occur all weekend. But most importantly, I'll be marching on Monday in The Stand Up and Represent March. It's year five for the march and this will surely be the highlight of my weekend.

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WELCOMES YOU TO ATLANTA WITH A SIZZLING...

PRE-CLUB LABOR DA

BASH

Mingle with current and past models and the most stylish crowd you'll ever see in Atlanta during PRIDE.

FREE DRINKS ALL NIGHT
and **FREE Parting Gift Bags** to all guests

Special invited guests: Novelist E. Lynn Harris, James Earl Hardy, JL King, Activist & Novelist Mr. Keith Boykin and Real World cast member, Karamo

Date: Friday September 2, 2005
Time: 9pm - until
Place: The Atrium on Sweet Auburn
236 Auburn Ave., Atlanta, GA

$20 Space Limited So Come Early

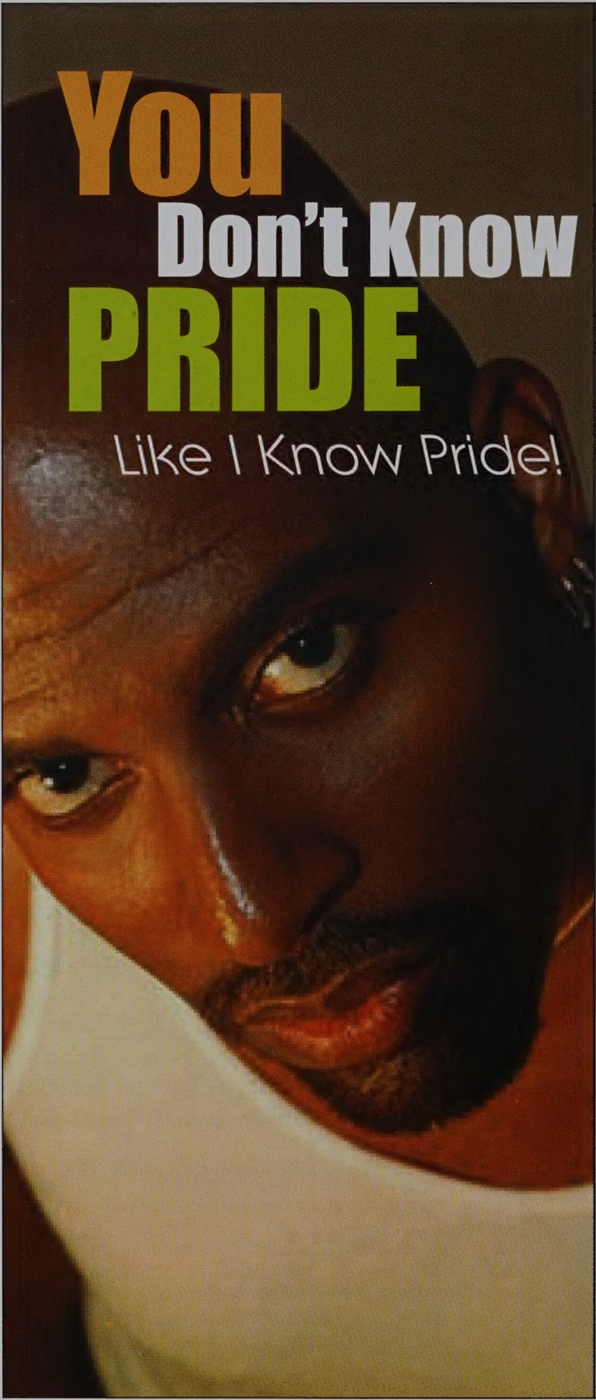
(Portions of the proceeds will be donated to ITLA - Atlanta Black Pride Organizers)

Upscale party celebrating Clikque Magazine, the nation's premier publication for and about men of color done in true Clikque style. This ia an upscale magazine party, so dress to impress. There will be lights, cameras and action!

1 CLIKQUE MAGAZINE 0

ARTICLE BY ANTHONY ANTOINE

You Don't Know PRIDE Like I Know Pride!



A weekend's worth of outfits planned - many of them new, gym memberships renewed and used, dollars begged, borrowed and spent, potential love interests dismissed or at least thwarted in preparation for the biggest, most important weekend of all of our lives - Black Gay Pride Weekend. Bigger than any terrorist attack, more important than our birthdays and a much larger turnout than the Presidential Elections. Trust, many more of us showed up outside Traxx last Saturday night than we did at the polls. As I type at my computer on the Thursday after (three days of recuperation) in a T-shirt that reads, "I SURVIVED BLACK GAY PRIDE WEEKEND IN ATLANTA," memorabilia from my first commemoration here in 1995, five celebrations later, I wonder, are we really celebrating Black Gay Pride?

I thought, maybe I need to get an official definition of pride to settle my concern and so I searched Encarta, which shared definitions that troubled me. "The correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements," it read. Hmmm! Interesting! Troubling!

Then I remembered my early celebrations, where I lost count of the many phone numbers I had collected over the weekend. Don't act brand new! Yes, I kept count. Didn't we all keep count? There's a sport to collecting numbers, rules taught to me by my first gay mentors in Dallas. Loosing count was an immediate ten-point deduction from your total score of self-esteem. And what better time to garner self-esteem points than on Black Gay Pride Weekend, a time when a smorgasbord of men with phone numbers is before you. Out of town numbers are doubled bonus points adding to your self-worth and personal character. Everyone knows, the more numbers you collect, the worthier you are. That's elementary rules straight out of The Official Rules Book of Celebrating Black Gay Pride.

Combing the pages of additional rules, you'll find "Never Bring Sand to the Beach," "Never Wear an Outfit Twice, "Two Outfits Per Day," "Never Commit to Spending The Night with Someone Before

PRIDE CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

Living in our PRIDE
In The Life Atlanta
BLACK GAY PRIDE 2005
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$65 pass

2005 VIP ALL ACCESS PASS

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BLACK GAY PRIDE

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

404.872.6410

Includes: Free or discounted access to ALL ITLA events at our Host Hotel including the Saturday's Community Luncheon and Sunday's Jazz Brunch, complimentary drink at one of our Host Hotel bars, admission to exclusive VIP reception, free or discounted admission to selected area clubs and parties * (check web site for up to date listing along with admission restrictions)

Purchase online with your Visa, MasterCard or American Express by visiting our web site www.atlantablackpride.com or purchase in person beginning at 2PM on August 31st at the Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel and Colony Square.

2005 PRIDEPASS & VIP ALL ACCESS BENEFITS

Entertainment Partners: Affair With Flair, Xtreme Entertainment, Wassup N ATL, Maxine Blue Productions, Flava Men Magazine

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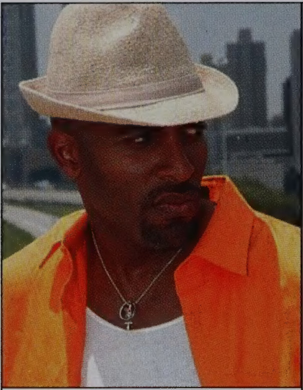
PRIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30



Midnight," and the entire chapter on "Sex." One nameless friend uses a scheduling book every pride celebration. This year alone, he counted eleven "sessions" over four days. The six o'clock must be gone by eight o'clock leaving enough time for another arrival at nine - and a shower, I hope.

"A weekend full of empty promises, empty spirit, and empty pockets," another friend who decided to leave town described the weekend. I remember feeling sad after we talked about it and I realized that even I had adopted some of the anxiety surrounding Atlanta's Labor Day weekend. My sadness was encouraged by many of my black gay brothas and sistas experiencing a huge "let-down" from the weekend, somehow believing that the Black Gay Pride celebration would unfold this magic that would save us from the rest of our uneventful lives. Years of experiencing this "let-down" will have us all leaving town during Black Gay Pride weekends.

Black Gay Pride weekend! Black Gay Pride celebration! These were our lessons. This is what I was taught about Black Gay Pride and the effervescent weekend.

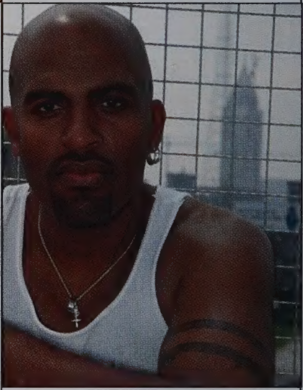
But this year, something changed. Somehow, without a conscious effort, I've just lived the best Black Gay Pride weekend of my life. What was different for me this year? I realized that my weekend was no longer just about clubs, boys and sex but about a connection to a community. I really don't know the beginning of the metamorphosis but I thank God for it. I thank ITLA for it. I thank the men who attended Second Sunday and those that utilized AID Atlanta's services. Don't get me wrong. I used my job at AID Atlanta as an excuse to "work" the lobby, the runway of the host hotel and Boris (my truck) honked at all the cute black gay folks as we drove by. I asked Boris not to be so obvious about his excitement that so many black gays and lesbians had taken over Hotlanta. But my primary goal for being at the host hotel was to test people for HIV and that made me feel proud.

Clearly, something had changed. In the years pasts, being away from the club would make me feel empty. Now I feel empty for my friends who were missing the workshops, business networking, performances, poetry events, bonding and friendship - the true celebrations of the weekend. Most of my good friends celebrated in the same-ole way we have every year, make it home at 5 am, sleep until 5pm, eat, quick work-out and then off to the club. Now, if this is your only pride celebration, you can deduct ten points from your total score of self-esteem.

I feel Pride! I lived and continue to live Pride! I am PROUD! Another Encarta definition for the word 'pride' is the spirit motivating me, why I'm writing this today. "The happy, satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire," it read. For those who have asked, search, and begged for a true celebration of Black Gay Pride, I offer you this and a few websites for future reference.

I've just lived the best Black Gay Pride weekend of my life and it wasn't because of the clubs, parties or the boys but because I am now connected to a community, a LGBTQ COMMUNITY of people that love and affirm who I am as a black gay man. I collected not one phone number this year and my self-esteem flourishes. Watching Shane Johnson tear up as 400 black gay marchers and supporters culminated onto West End Park for The Stand Up and Represent March was better than sex. And I believe I've had the best sex known to two (or three or four) men.

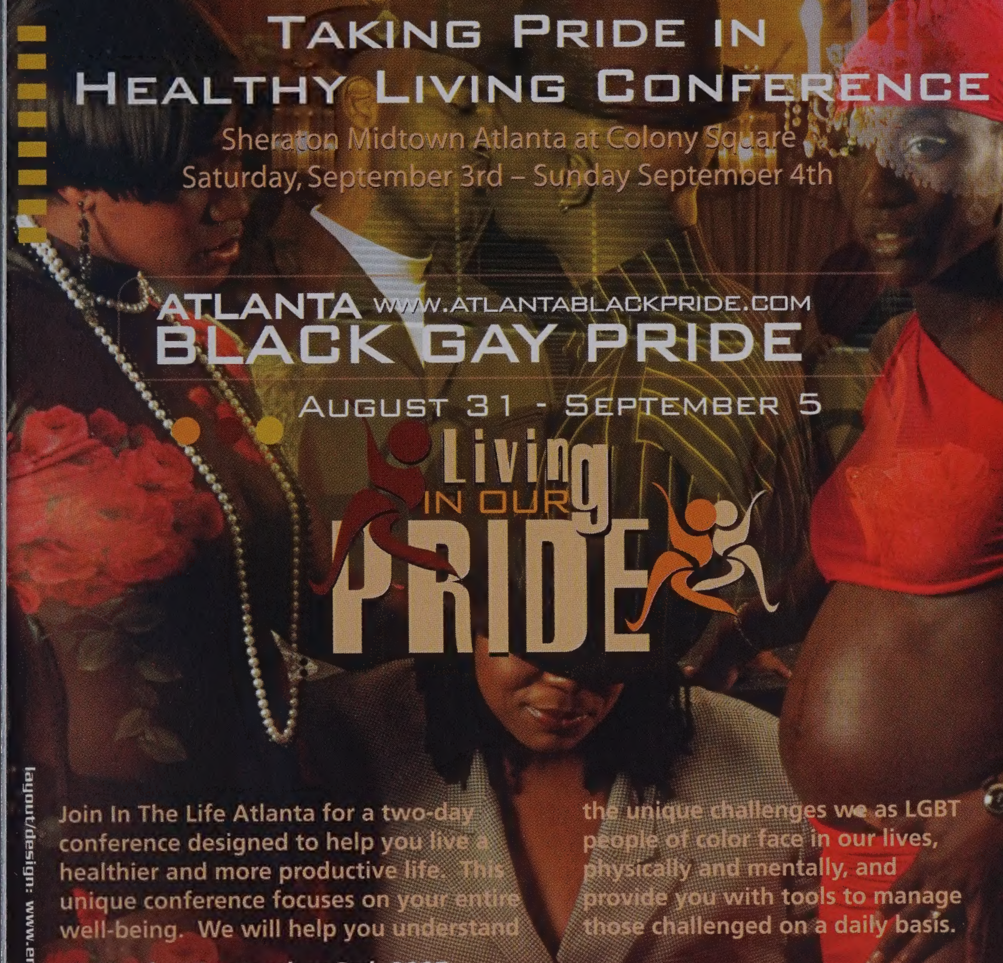
All in the spirit of what I now know and embrace to be black gay PRIDE, I partied this year, partied so hard that I was tired and in bed by eleven each night. If you missed this celebration of Black Gay Pride, you truly missed the celebration. If blessings allow, you'll have another opportunity next year. Like my momma said, "If you keep doing what you've always done, you'll keep getting what you've always gotten." And somebody's grand momma said, "When you know better, you do better." I'm inviting you to a true celebration of pride, one that won't leave you confused about what we've celebrated, one where you can't help but to feel PRIDE, true Black Gay PRIDE.



How will you celebrate Black Gay Pride? Trust me on this, the best Black Gay Pride weekend will unfold for you when you celebrate your pride all year round. And this celebration doesn't even preclude you from making it to The Lion's Den before the crowd kicks in.

TAKING PRIDE IN HEALTHY LIVING CONFERENCE

Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square
Saturday, September 3rd – Sunday September 4th



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BLACK GAY PRIDE

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

Living IN OUR PRIDE

Join In The Life Atlanta for a two-day conference designed to help you live a healthier and more productive life. This unique conference focuses on your entire well-being. We will help you understand the unique challenges we as LGBT people of color face in our lives, physically and mentally, and provide you with tools to manage those challenged on a daily basis.

Saturday September 3rd, 2005
- Interactive and informative Workshops – addressing family, sexuality, relationships, adoption, transgender issues, youth issues, financial health, and many more.
- Health and Wellness Fair – focusing on physical, environmental, and holistic health
- Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion – luncheon buffet with noted speakers and panelist

Sunday September 4th, 2005
- Continuation of Workshops
- Interfaith Worship Service
- Jazz Brunch

Event Partners: Dekalb County Board of Health, Fulton County Health Department, Georgia State Department of Human Resources – PAUSE Campaign

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IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
CELEBRATING
THE BLACK LESBIAN • GAY
BISEXUAL • TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY

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DON'T MISS THE LARGEST

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

WWW.ATLANTABLACKPRIDE.COM

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

IN THE WORLD!

Wednesday, August 31st, 2005

- Registration Begins – Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel at Colony Square

Thursday, September 1st

- Candlelight Vigil
- Annual GLBT Career Fair & Technology Center Expo

Friday, September 2nd

- Annual GLBT Career Fair & Technology Center Expo
- VIP Reception
- Welcome Reception and Opening Ceremony Celebration
- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- SpeakFire! – an evening of erotic open mic poetry and personal expression (Midnight)
- La Gender Drag Show
- Technology Lounge

Saturday, September 3rd

- Taking Pride in Healthy Living Conference Day 1

ITLA

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Living IN OUR PRIDE

- Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion
- Workshop Series Day 1
- Health and Wellness Fair

- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- 2005 Poetry Slam
- See Us In The Life Film Festival
- Punany Poets presents "Head Doctor"
- Technology Lounge

Sunday, September 4th

- Interfaith Worship Service
- Jazz Brunch with live Jazz performances by local artists
- Taking Pride in Healthy Living Conference Day 1
- Literary Café
- The Dating Game presented by Together In Love
- Black Pride Fashion Show Extravaganza
- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- Technology Lounge

Monday, September 5th

- Stand up and Represent Black Pride March (from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center to the Georgia State Capitol Building)

Visit our website at www.atlantablackpride.com for complete and up to date listing of events and activities

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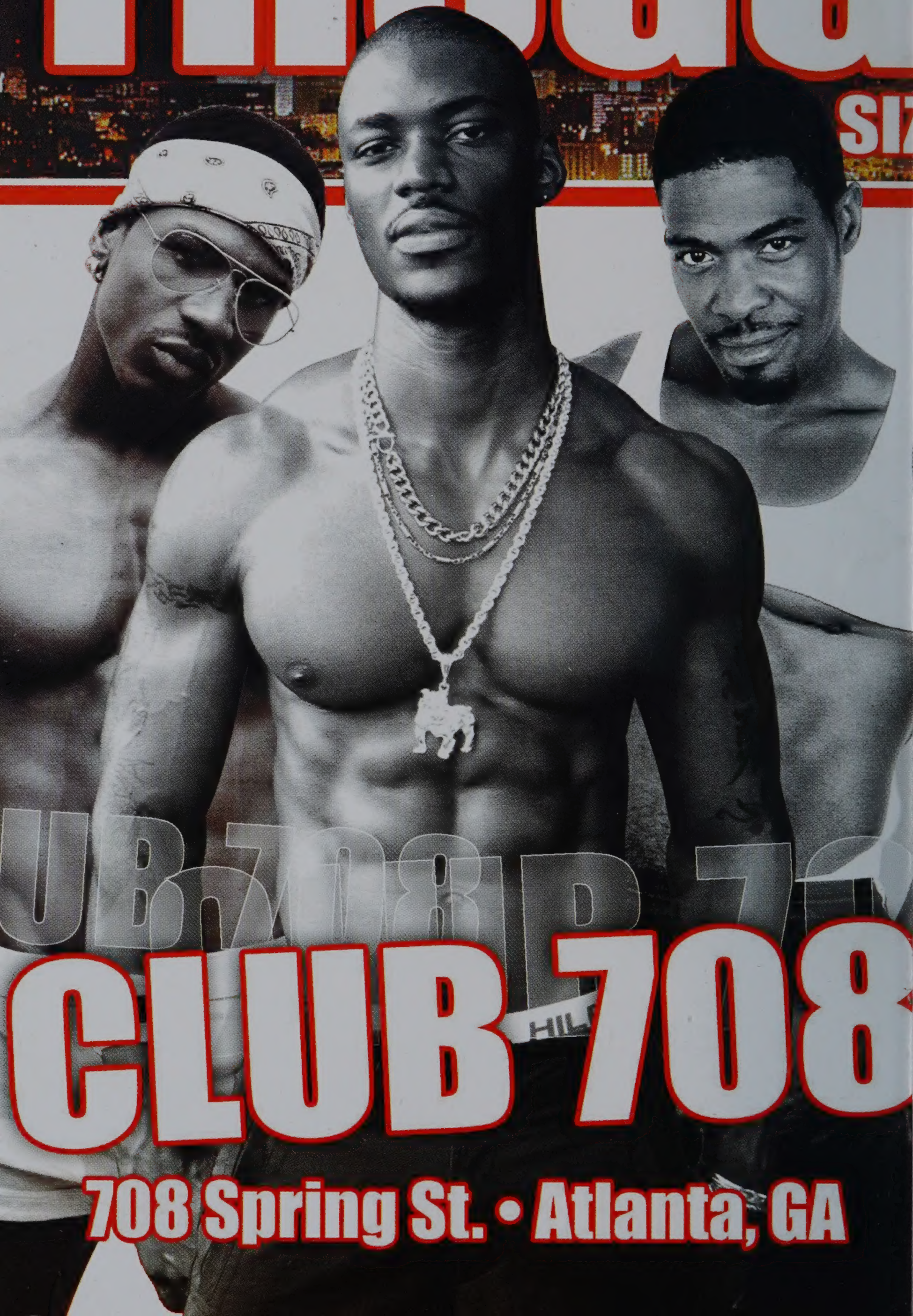

CLUB 708

708 Spring St. • Atlanta, GA

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ZLING BLACK PRIDE WEEKEND

AUG. 31ST - SEPT. 7TH

Sizzling Black Pride Weekend Line Up...

WEDNESDAY 8/31 & 9/7
"MINI BALL WEDNESDAY"
Hosted by: Andre Givenchy

THURSDAY 9/1
"The Arrival of the THUGS and the LADIES
who like to party with the THUGS.
CLUB 708: DJ JFK Atl. • CLUB 714: DJ Goose, ATL
FREE B4 11:30pm • 10pm - 5:30am

FRIDAY 9/2
THUGGED OUT BLACK-OUT FRIDAY
1 Whole Block, 1 Huge Building
3 Big Ass Clubs (Inside Entry to All 3 Clubs)
CLUB 708: DJ JFK Atl. • CLUB 714: DJ GOOSE, ATL CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SATURDAY 9/3
"THUGS 'N' DA HOOD"
1 Whole Block, 1 Huge Building
3 Big Ass Clubs (Inside Entry to All 3 Clubs)
CLUB 708: DJ JFK ATL. • CLUB 714: DJ Goose, ATL
CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SUNDAY 9/4
"THUGS NIGHT OUT" The After Party
@ 708 we party 'til the sun comes up
CLUB 708: DJ JFK ATL. • CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
10pm - 6am, all other clubs close at 2:45am

MONDAY 9/5
"THUG-FEST IN PIEDMONT PARK"
The Biggest Concert in Black Prides History
Performing Live: Crime Mobb • Maceo • D4L • Jara
Rasheeda • Boyz n Da Hood • The Incredibles & more
Hosted By: "Slyman & Dirty South"
BET Comic View • (DJ JFK ATL)
Gates Open @ 2pm, Showtime @ 5pm

MONDAY 9/5
"THUG-FEST MELT DOWN"
Variety Show @ CLUB 708
Calling all Singers, Rappers, Dancers
Whatever Your Talent is:
$1000.00 Grand Prize to the winner
Hosted by: "Slyman & Black Stallion"
BET Comic View
(DJ JFK ATL)
10pm - 5am

TUESDAY 9/6
"THE ILLUSION"
Hosted by: Dee Franklin Thomas & Lady T
Cash Prizes To Be Awarded
Male and Females Dancers
Contact: Deidre Black (678)558-9169
DJ GOOSE, ATL)
Doors Open @ 10pm

4 BIG ROOMS • 3 LEVELS
2 DANCE FLOORS
1 HUGE ASS CLUB!!!

Host Hotel: WESTIN PEACHTREE PLAZA • Reservation#: (800)937-8461 • Code: CLUB 708
Rates: Double & Single Occupancy $109.00, Tripple $129.00, Quad $149.00, Suites $250.00
Official Carrier: DELTA AIRLINES • Reservation#: (800)221-1212
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During our absence we have trained vigorously to provide you with the most intense, invigorating and dramatic event of all time. Remember we have remained the PIONEERS of this industry and the original source of Atlanta's Nightlife Entertainment... catering to every facet of the gay community and we will continue to due so at

ATLANTA'S BLACK PRIDE 2005

Saturday Sept. 3rd - Tuesday, Sept. 6th

"Lets see who will be left standing!!!"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

THE KNOCKOUT

"Can you take the blow?"

@ Atlanta Live • 3595 Clairmont Rd

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hardest and most ferocious beats pulsating through 55,000 watts of power generated by the nation's most requested DJ's

Hot 107.9's DJ Truz

The District Mother - DJ Sederick & DJ Meistro

Spinning Hip-Hop, House, Reggae and R&B
Also featuring our alluring world class Go Go Dancers
Gracing 3 Dramatic Stages

Doors Open @ 12 Noon, Sat., Sept. 3rd

Doors Close @ 12 Noon, Sun., Sept. 4th

Bar Stays Open All Day & Night

CAN YOU LAST 24 HOURS?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

TKO

"We are going to hit you hard!!!"

5479 Memorial Drive • (770)912-2992

Traxx 1st Official Indoor Pool Party

Featuring our Nationally Renowned Hot Boy Contest!

Come and get Wet & Wild with over 1,000 goregous men splashing in 2 indoor pools with waves crashing to hip hop and house beats created by:

DJ Meistro & DJ Keith Stephens

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

TRAXX in association with
ATLANTA'S BLACK GAY PRIDE
Nightclubs, Promoters, and Sponsors
- presents -

THE UNITY PICNIC

Free Food, Hot Music & One hell of a Good Time

Location: TBA

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

THE CONTENDER

"The night that continues to remain undefeated"

@ Atlanta Live • 3595 Clairmont Rd

Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn with hard hitting Hip Hop beats produced by:

Hot 107.9's DJ Truz & DJ Meistro

Don't miss the culminating Party of the year!!!

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"The original hip hop phenomenon"

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18 to party, 21 drink

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BULLDOGS BULLD

BLACK GAY PR

GET IN FREE ALL WEEKEND
WITH ITLA PRIDE PASS!!
AVAILABLE AT inthelifeatl.com
AND OUR COUNTDOWN TO
PRIDE PARTIES EVERY TUESDAY
IN AUGUST!! BE HERE

wednesday aug. 31

first encounter

pre-party with the first arrivals
dj andre brown

thursday sept. 1

foreplay

the hottest welcome party to atlanta
stimulating sight, sound and feel
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DE LABOR DAY

saturday sept. 3

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the extreme party of full sensual fulfillment
cookout on our big deck at 6pm
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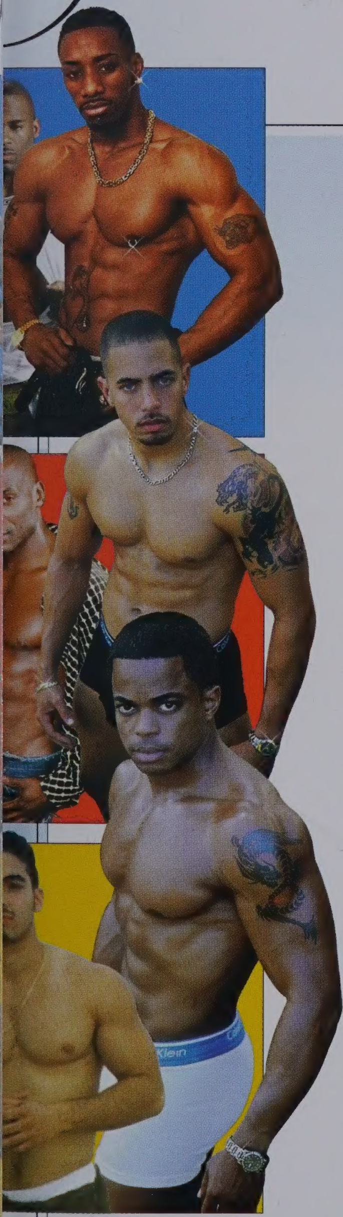

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Stripper Showdown
@ The Imperial
5395 Jimmy Carter Blvd.

Thursday:
All For One Night
@ CoCo LoCo
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Friday:
Hot Papi Night
@ The Chaparral
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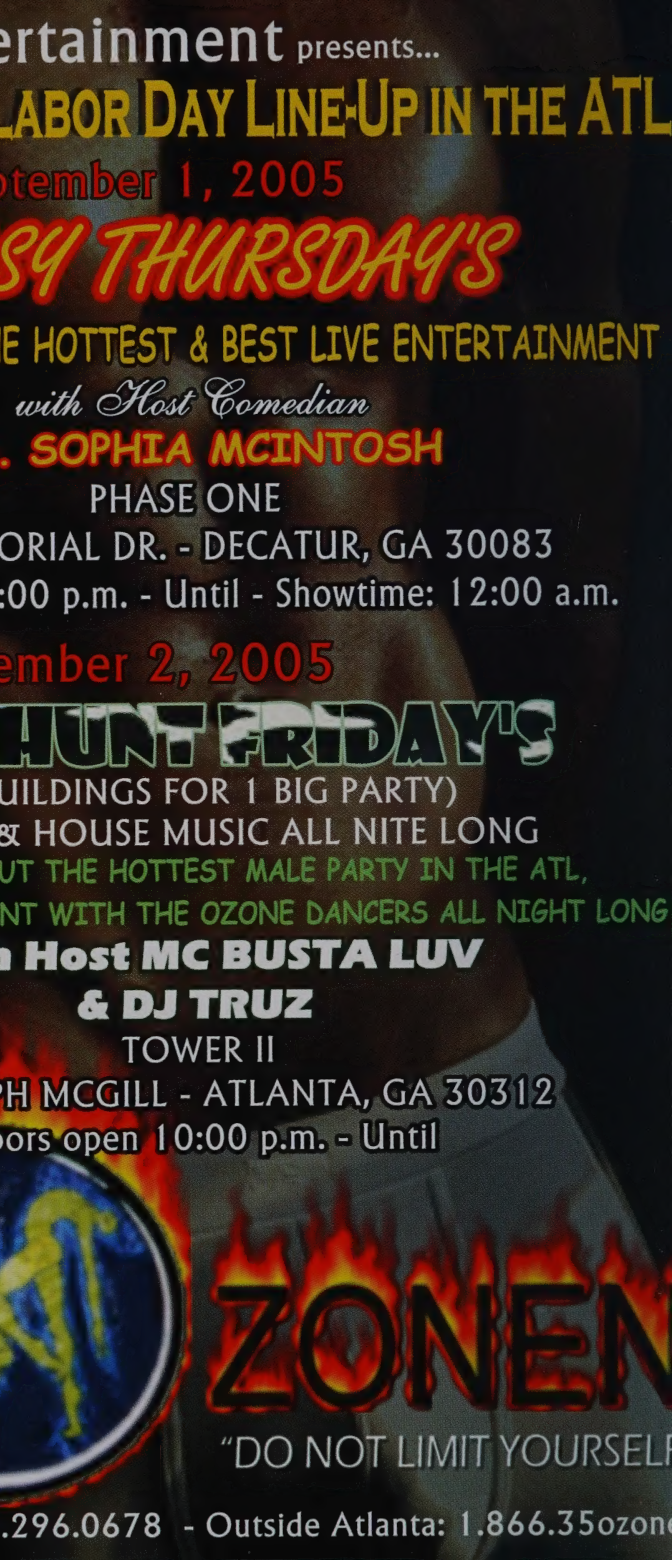
Saturday:
Grown Folks Party
@ Knights Hall
2620 Buford Hwy.

Sunday:
Legendary Hip-Hop Night
@ The Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy



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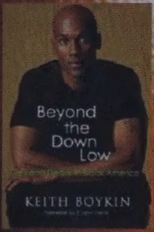
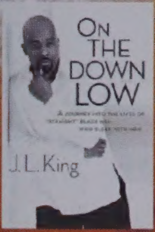
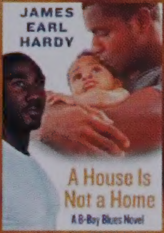
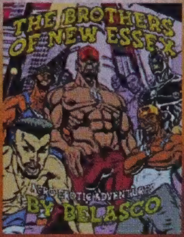

Beyond the Down Low
KEITH BOYKIN


ON THE DOWN LOW
J.L. King


JAMES EARL HARDY
A House Is Not a Home
A B-Boy Blues Novel

ONE NIGHT STAND
WALTER WRIGHT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ARTICLE BY KEITH BOYKIN

The Liar, the Predator and the Closeted Guy

Could it be a coincidence that R&B legend Luther Vandross passed away in the same week when Terry McMillan's divorce to a gay man became public and R. Kelly's new "Trapped In The Closet" music video outed a closeted gay man?

Just hours after Logo launched the first ever gay television channel on basic cable and Sandra Day O'Connor resigned from the Supreme Court, our heads were spinning with news that Luther Vandross had died at 54.

The night before, in the very first show to air on Logo (a documentary called "The Evolution Will Be Televised"), gay activist Urvashi Vaid had warned gays and lesbians that visibility does not equal understanding.

She's right, of course, but those of us who are black and gay are still struggling just to be visible. We are still waiting for more of our own heroes to come out or be seen, but like the characters in R. Kelly's musical soap opera, too many of us are still trapped in our own closets.

But some of the black gay men who have been visible recently are not our best representatives. No matter what else he does in life, for example, Jonathan Plummer will always be remembered as Terry McMillan's gay spouse, left to be immortalized like Bobby Brown being introduced to the Dali Lama as "Whitney Houston's husband."

McMillan's husband claimed in court records (published online at thesmokinggun.com) that he did not know he was gay when he met and married his famous companion. Yet down low "expert" J.L. King, quickly pronounced Plummer's explanation not just implausible, but impossible. "Nonsense," King told the Washington Post. "He knew he was gay."

I'm not sure if Plummer is telling the truth, but his story is certainly plausible. I know because I came out when I was 25 years old, and I never knew I was gay and never slept with a man before that time.

So how would King know the mental state of a 20-year-old Jamaican man he apparently never met? And how does someone like King, who can't even decide if he's straight or bisexual, become a spokesperson for the black LGBT community? Welcome to the media depiction of black gays and lesbians.

Just in time for the McMillan controversy–in a choice almost as ironic as the casting of the closeted gay actor Rock Hudson to play the San Francisco Police Commissioner in the 1970s television show "McMillan and Wife"–the producers at the "Oprah Winfrey Show," on hiatus for the summer, scheduled a July 7 re-run of the controversial "down low" episode that first catapulted King to public attention 15 months earlier.

But there was another hitch to this story. Plummer accused McMillan of hurling hateful homophobic epithets at him after he told her he was gay. "I'm black and rich again and female and I'm smarter than you and an army of fags," McMillan allegedly wrote to him in January. I asked openly gay author E. Lynn Harris, a personal friend of McMillan's, and he told me that "Terry is not homophobic. It's not fun going through a breakup of any sort," he said. "It becomes even more difficult when you're a public figure."

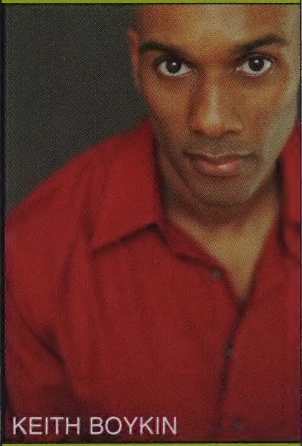
And then there is Luther, the quintessential balladeer of our time, a wealthy and successful bachelor with a beautiful voice who, fat or thin, could have easily found a wife but never married and hardly even bothered to fake a heterosexual lifestyle. When asked about his sexuality in a 2002 interview with BET, Vandross simply said it was none of their business. It was an honest answer that no straight celebrity would ever give.
A
But in the black community, we still subscribe to the policy of "don't ask, don't tell," which may explain why some blacks are upset by efforts to out Vandross posthumously, as if being gay would somehow mar his already extraordinary career.

What people don't understand is that black gays and lesbians are desperate for affirming images of ourselves. While the white gays get Ellen, Elton and the "Queer Eye" guys, we're stuck with J.L. King, the poster boy for the down low, Jonathan Plummer, a gay man who deceived a famous wife, and Othniel Askew, the black gay man who murdered a New York City councilman a year ago this month. We rarely see positive stories about us in the media, and when straight blacks attempt to tell our stories, they depict us as scandalously as the closeted gay pastor in R. Kelly's music video.

That's why we're so anxious to clutch onto Luther. We're eager to find realistic images that reflect the true diversity of who we are. And that's why we have to tell our own stories.

This month, a new film called "The Ski Trip" will debut on Logo, becoming the first black gay film on television. It is produced and directed by black gays and lesbians. That's a refreshing change from the pathological portrait of black gay men in the media recently.

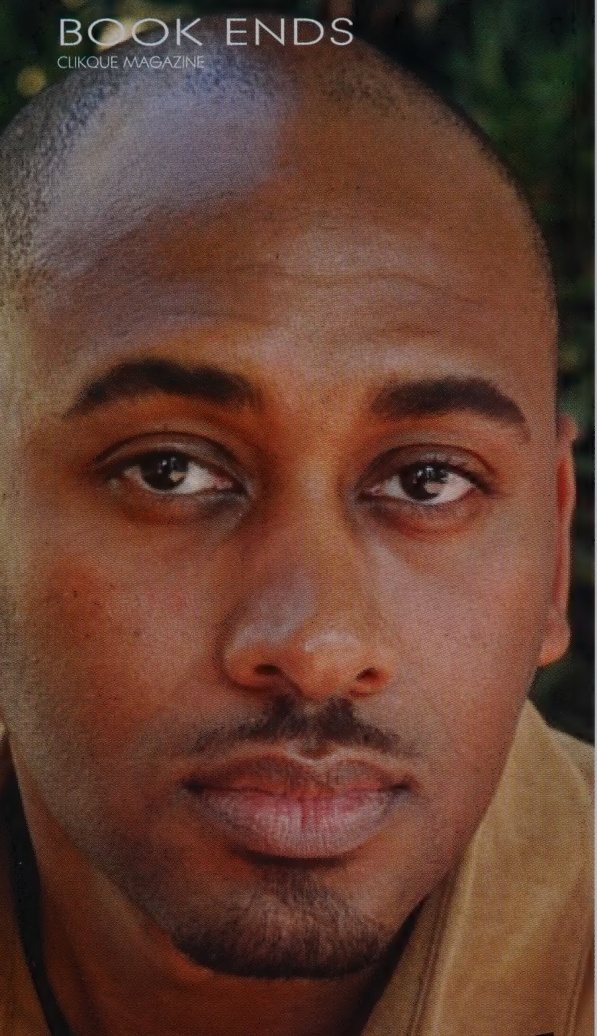
If the media could spend half as much time telling these stories as we've spent talking about the down low and Terry McMillan's divorce, we wouldn't have as many black gays and lesbians trapped in the closet. And maybe one day, a new Luther will sing our song instead of R. Kelly.



KEITH BOYKIN

Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times bestselling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.

Keith appeared on the Showtime television series American Candidate and is a frequent presence in the media. He has appeared on VH1, BET, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and numerous other television and radio programs. He has been featured on the cover of several publications including A&U, Out and The Advocate, and he was selected as one of Out Magazine's 100 most intriguing people of 2004. He has also been featured or quoted in articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today and JET magazine.



Down For *Whatever*

By Frederick Smith

In his debut, DOWN FOR WHATEVER (Kensington; July 5, 2005; trade paperback), Frederick Smith has created a mesmerizing first novel in the tradition of E. Lynn Harris and James Earl Hardy that follows the lives of four friends, each hoping to realize their dreams and find true love in the town where all the world's a stage - and everyone's a player. Keith, Tommie, Marco Antonio, and Rafael each ended up in LA. for different reasons, via different paths, from Mexico to Michigan, from the Ivy League to the streets. But they have one thing in common - they're all looking for Mr. Right.

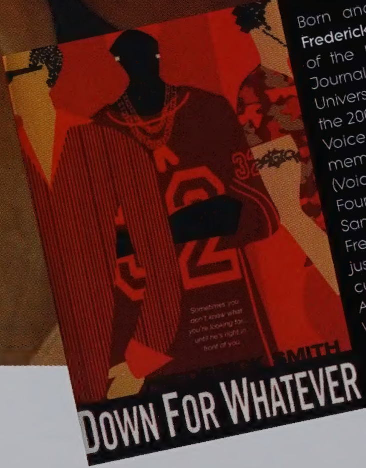
Keith, a preacher's son from Detroit, is looking for love in all the wrong places. But when Cupid answers his prayers with a man who's hot and smart, he's got to wonder if it's too good to be true. Rafael's problem is that he doesn't really know what he wants - so he's willing to try just about everything.

The most stable of the group, Marco Antonio is finally closing the deal on a long-distance romance with an up-and-coming actor. But when the Hollywood celebrity machine interferes, Marco yearns for the stability of a regular guy - and eventually finds himself torn between two lovers.

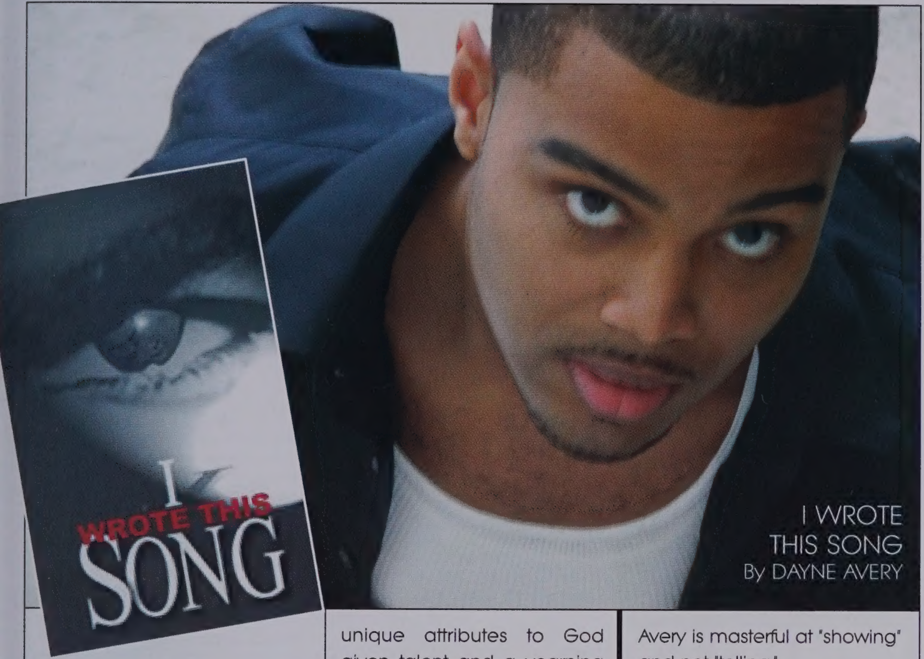
Tommie, a former member of a now defunct R&B group, has fallen for a college basketball player with a dazzling future in the pros. But at thirty-something, barely out of the closet, with little left to show for his once-hot career, Tommie can't help wondering what a young rising star is doing with a fallen star like him.

Navigating a fast-paced world populated by divas, drama queens, and DLs, the guys are about to find out if real love can triumph in the City of Angels, where perfect bodies, youth, and black and brown pride come together and collide with gay pride. DOWN FOR WHATEVER is a fun, sexy, and insightful tale of modern love in black and Latino Los Angeles.

Kensington Publishing Company
Publication Date: July 2005
ISBN: 0-7582-0979-7


Sometimes you don't know what you're looking for... until he's right in front of you.
SMITH
DOWN FOR WHATEVER

Born and raised in Detroit, **Frederick Smith** is a graduate of the University of Missouri Journalism School and Loyola University Chicago. A finalist for the 2004 PEN Center Emerging Voices Fellowship, and a member of the 2004 VONA (Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation at the University of San Francisco) novel seminar, Fred is an advocate for social justice and equality issues. He currently lives in the Los Angeles area. DOWN FOR WHATEVER is his first novel. Readers can contact him at www.fredericksmith.net.



I WROTE THIS SONG

By DAYNE AVERY

Introducing the newest kid on the literary block- 23 year old Dayne Avery.

Writing is the art Avery was born to create. A love for language, paired with a passion to tell a story which needed telling birthed the vision for I Wrote This Song- Avery's debut novel.

The titles significance? When you think about it, life is like a song, a complicated melody full of high and low notes. "I want my story to resonate with beauty, creativity, and purpose," Avery smiles "and I will fight to make it so."

I Wrote This Song showcases a writing style seemingly penned by hands much older and filled with more wisdom than anyone so young should possess. Avery credits his unique attributes to God given talent and a yearning to let to world hear his voice. "Most know me as mild mannered and are taken back when they discover I had enough words inside to fill the pages of a great novel. I wanted to give a ray of hope, or at least take peoples minds off of how cruel this life can be. And if nothing else, help the man whose shoes I used to fill-struggling on a rocky path towards self acceptance, letting him know he is not alone."

Mr. Avery has definitely written a powerful and passionate novel that should be read by everyone. It is rare to find an author blessed with the gift of writing with a stylistic and nuanced technique so developed that the reader becomes a part of the story. There is a huge difference between telling a story and painting a picture and Mr. Avery is masterful at "showing" and not "telling."

I Wrote This Song is a MUST read. This novel deals with the gamut of human emotions and creates real characters with real issues that are treated with finesse and grace. Love is always a complicated and complex conundrum of emotions and Mr. Avery vividly shows the duality of love: its beauty as well as its uncanny ability to hurt. In the end, the heart will always love what it loves...

Mr. Avery makes me proud to be a writer. Don't miss out on I Wrote This Song.

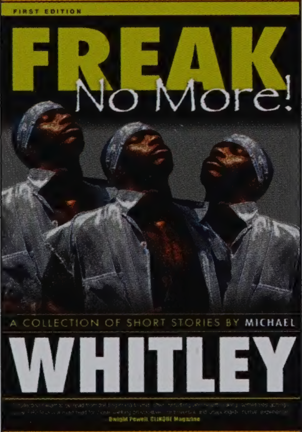
– Lee Hayes, author of Passion Marks. "www.passionmarks.com"

Paperback: 208 pages
BookSurge Publishing
(February 8, 2005)
ISBN: 0976132303

“Don’t be scared, it will hurt just a little”

Synopsis:

Ten Years in the making, Freak is the collected (thoughts) (words) (torment) of unconventional voices outside the societal radar desperately trying to normalize themselves. It's what a freak, someone rejected wants more, that is to be accepted, loved. In the short story "The Reverend is a good man," Michael Whitley explores the complexity of molestation and how a victim can mistakenly love its (predator). In the short story "Mama's Medicine," a nine year old boy dreams of running away to Sesame Street, so that he wouldn't have to deal with his mother's death. The side splitting, of the wall, extremely funny Dangerous life of a male secretary and Pink Jelly Sandals, someone is trying to kill the underachiever and a gay boy remembers his first love, obsession, his middle school crush and the girl he once fought to worship. The last story, Who is Sean, an alcoholic and sex addict puts a bullet through his heart because he did the one thing he promised himself he'ld never do, fall in love. A collection, purposely murdering fairytales, so unapologetic, is often disturbing and heartbreaking, sometimes achingly funny, but a must read for those seeking provocative, controversial and unapologetic urban human experiences.


FIRST EDITION
FREAK
No More!
A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES BY MICHAEL
WHITLEY
Dwight Powell CLIKQUE Magazine

QUOTE FROM AUTHOR: In my heart, I will always be that eight year old boy abandoned by his mother. Under normal circumstances, that is if my father didn't get himself murdered and my mother never got addicted to crack, I probably would've grown up to be something noble and safe like a Doctor or Corporate Lawyer. Instead, because the wound of abandonment cut so deep into my soul, I knew I could never be "sitcom" normal, always a freak outside the radar, thus I became an artist. The sitcom "normal" had betrayed me. It made me a freak. It also made me creative because I needed to create a world where a freak like me could belong and laugh and cry about life. I needed to express the void in my soul.

About author: Michael Whitley was born in Texas, graduated from the University of Houston and studied under Edward Albee and the Hurston/Wright workshops with Mat Johnson. A produced playwright and published writer, he now resides in Washington D.C

CLIKQUE INTERVIEW

How long have I been a writer?
I wrote my first poem in first grade. Yes, in first grade I already knew how to read, write and count money. Actually, I knew how to count money before I got to kindergarten. When you're the son of a crackhead, you have to learn life quick.

Why did you want to become a writer?
I never wanted to become a writer per se. I guess you can say, there were two life changing incidents. In essence, I wanted to become a storyteller --that's how I knew it. When I was nine years old, my grandmother was the best family storyteller. She would get all of us kids in a room on a hot summer night, we make a circle around her and she would tell us stories of our parents

When did you write your first story?
I wrote my first story when I was fifteen years old. I wrote on the bathroom floor at two o'clock in the morning. It was like an exorcism, the best high of my life. I have yet to experience anything like it again. It was like god was flowing through me. I couldn't sleep because I had a voice whispering in my ear. I got some notebook paper and locked myself in the bathroom. I wasn't suppose to be up that late, knew if I got caught, I would get in trouble, but I needed to tell the story. I found a pen, and on the bathroom floor I wrote "Fatal Love." It was a story about a white boy falling in love with a black girl during Jim Crow. A year later, it won the San Antonio Literary award for best youth fiction.

When did you want to become a writer?
I never stopped writing. I wanted to become a film director. I went to school to become a film director. It didn't work out, but I never stopped writing. I never stopped wrestling with the voices in my head and life. It would turn out to be my saving grace. I woke up at twenty seven years old and realized I had nothing. I had no life. I was broke, no job, living back in Texas, and not sure what was to become of my life. I never stopped writing. I woke up to find that it was all that I had. I had so many stories, hundreds, but wasn't doing anything with them. Writing was my refuge.

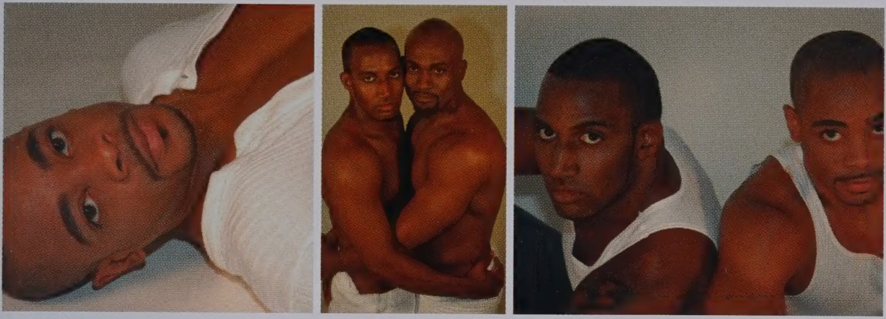
How would you describe Freak?
When you're the minority's minority, it can seem difficult to dream without compromise in a world that teaches to value everything but yourself, to tell every story but your own, so I had to ponder what does happiness look like for the invisible, down low, unseen. Freak, no more is bravery. I could have written a black gay fairytale with perfect pretty black successful characters with problems. I love E. Lynn Harris. I pay tribute to him, because he made it possible for me, but I don't know too many successful people or perfect. I know the drag queens, the check writers, the strippers, the hustlers, old men who chase young boys, so I could only tell my truth. As an authentic writer, you can only tell your truth. Freak, is the only truth I know.

Why should people buy your book?
The characters in Freak, no more, seek life. A life they can own, value, fight for. I feel when you're black and gay, you have to learn to tell your own stories because no one else will. You have to learn to fight for your own experiences because no one else. You have to learn to give yourself power, identity and value, because no one else will.

Is Freak, no more is mostly black and gay?
No, it's universal. I read "Memoir of a Geisha," and I'm not Asian or a prostitute.

Any last words?
I love that line in Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory about money being common, that it's made and printed everyday, but you only get one life chance, to be special, to be chosen -- you would be a dummy to buy into the idea of normal or safe. Life is about feeling alive. Freak is so dangerous, so alive, it should be illegal. I'm a fucking rock star.

BOOK DROPS TUESDAY 30TH AUGUST / For details visit www.MichaelWhitley.net



photography by malik m.l. williams

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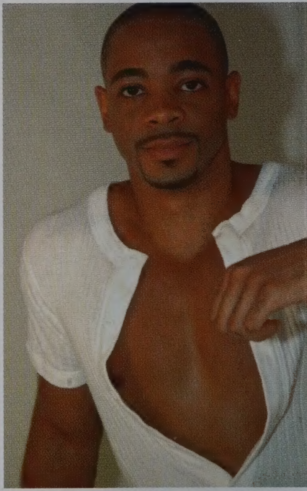
IMAGES

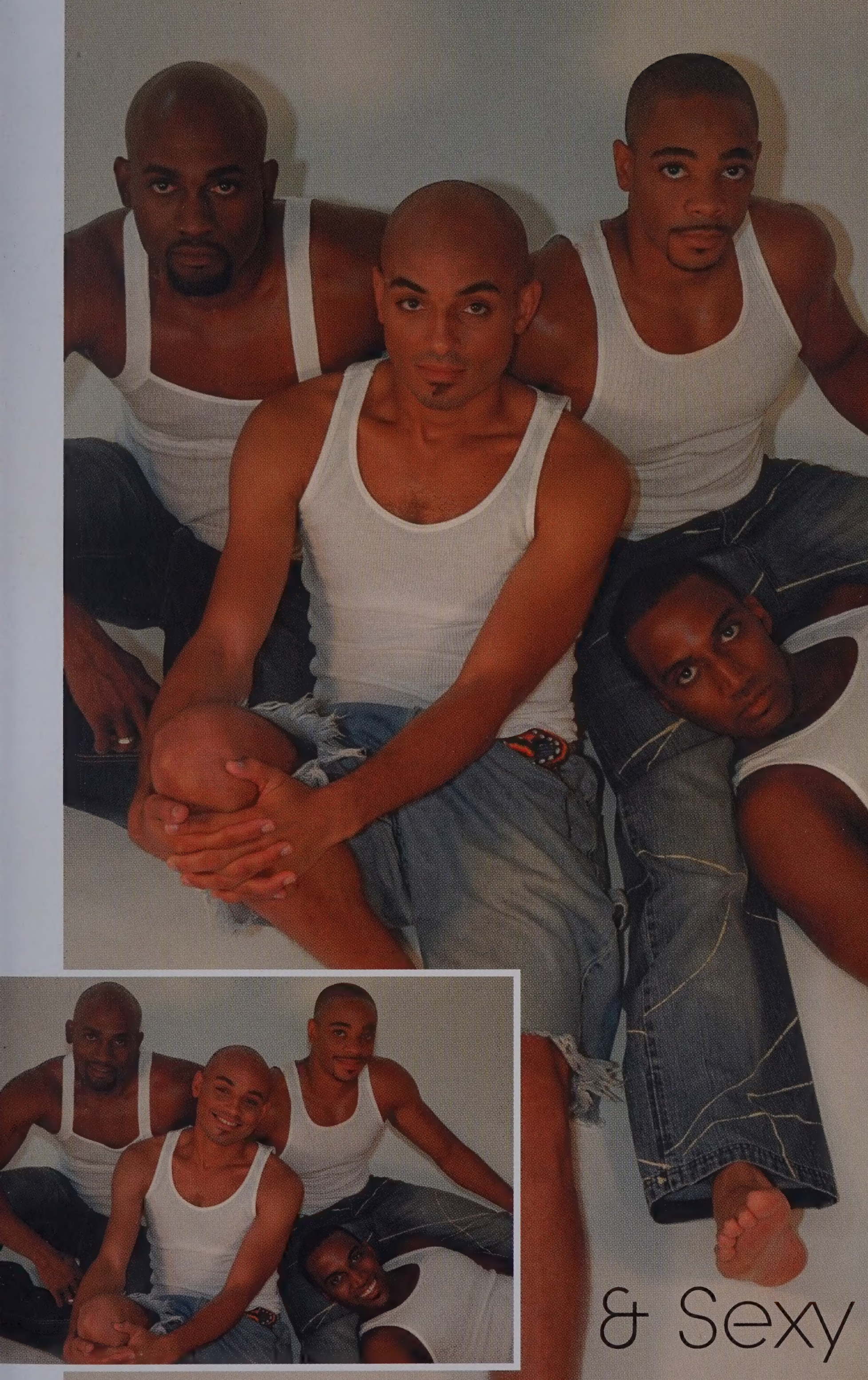
Visit www.BrothaLoveImages.com

WHITE HOT!

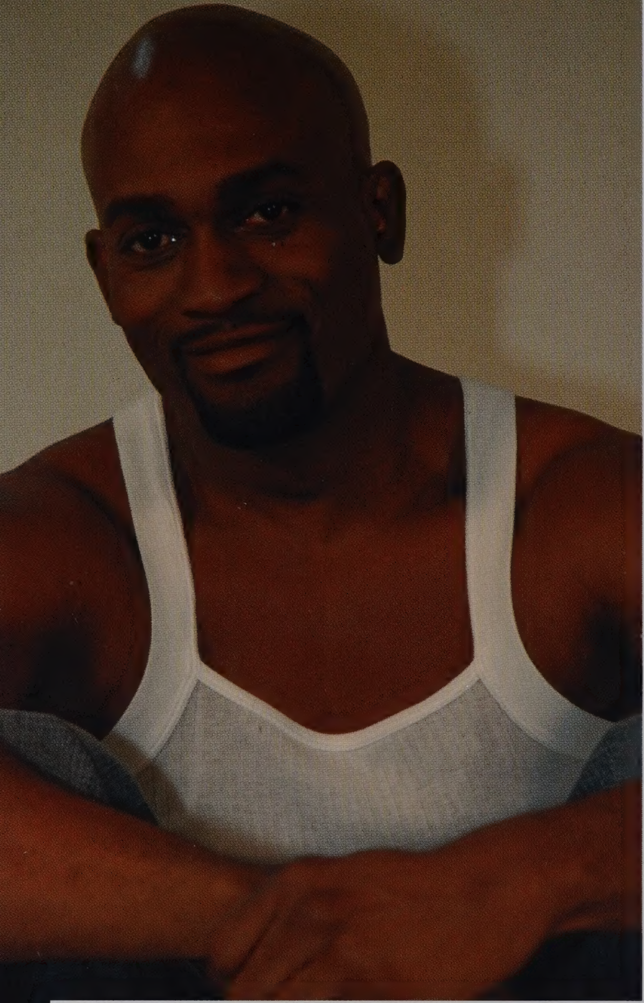
Photographed exclusively for Clikque Magazine by
malik m.l. williams of BrothaLoveImages.com

Fashion mavens for ages have marked Labor Day as the end of the summer season, the last day to wear white. But whether it calls for a last-days-of-summer tank top, an almost-fall sweater, or a whole lot less, Labor Day Weekend in Atlanta is always WHITE HOT!





& Sexy



Make-up:

Amethyst Light Designs

Assistant art direction

The ADODI Muse

Models: (L-R Below)

Findrix A. Bowers III

D. Ransom

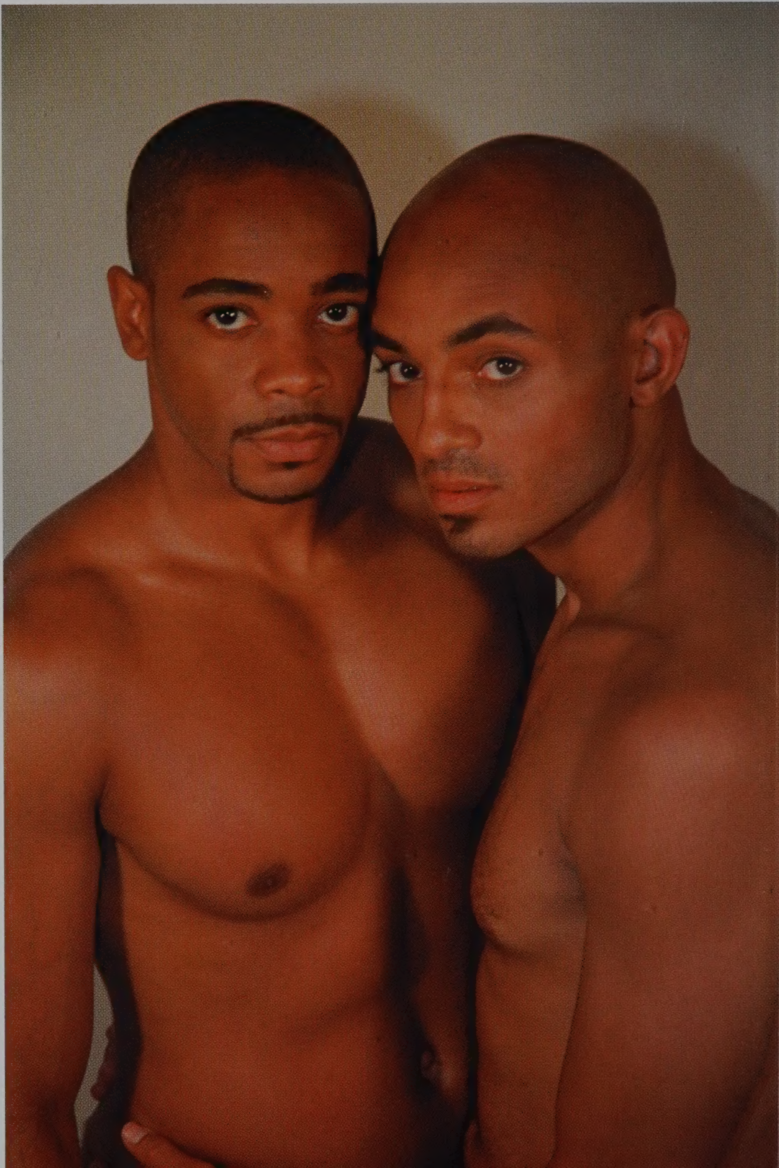
Phoenix Boyd

David Lee

Black men are beautiful

Writer/Photographer – **Malik M.L. Williams**
Atlanta, Georgia

That is the simple premise that is at the heart of BrothaLove Images operating philosophy: "presenting positive images of black men." My hope is that the representations of men i create will reflect the diversity, strength, creativity and - of course - beauty that i see in black men everywhere. I am especially encouraged by some of the images of brothas loving brothas i have been able to create.



We don't see enough representations of ourselves, our love, our worthiness in the world around us. If i can change that, even a little bit, i believe i'm on the right path.

MUSIC REVIEWS

T-PRO / BILLBORAD

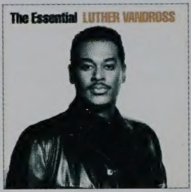
DJ T-PRO (just T to his friends) arrived NYC via Washington DC at the tender age of 17, having already played as resident to DC's largest club. He soon continued his success in NY playing clubs like the legendary **Limelight, Roxy, Tunnel, Milk, Octagon, Warehouse, CafeConLeche, Escuelita, Exit, Krash, Cheetah** and the **HotBoyz Pride Events** featuring **Mary J Blige, Lil Kim & Ashanti**. He also had the privilege of being a 5-year resident dj @ NY's most popular club SPLASH and partying with the likes of **Mariah, Britney & Janet**. This amazing dj has also produced/remixed tracks for **Janet** & her brother **Michael Jackson, Ellen Degeneres, Mad Tv, Masters @ Work, Marilyn Manson, Jellybean Benitez, Arthur Baker, Kristine W** and yes, even humorously, **Wonder Woman**. Now living in Miami, T is a resident dj at some of the Sunshine State's largest clubs **Coliseum, Discotheque, Karma & Nocturnal**. He also continues 2 dj / vj once a month @ **SPLASH** in **NYC**, reports 4 **Billboard** magazine's dance chart, is hip-hop music columnist 4 **Clikque** magazine and even finds time 2 produce some of the best DVD visual installations (aka "**Ttv**") 4 clients all over the world. T is truly bringing multimedia 2 the masses.

T-Pro's Top 10

1	We Run This (tpromix)	**MISSY ELLIOTT**	ATLANTIC
2	Shake	**YING YANG TWINS** f/ PITBULL	TVT
3	Twisted	**OLIVIA** f/ Lloyd Banks	G-UNIT
4	Bounce That Thang	**MR. EASY**	RUDEGAL
5	LO QUE PASO PASO	**DADDY YANKEE**	POLYDOR
6	To The Floor	**R. KELLY, WYSEN & YINDELL**	JIVE
7	Holla Back Girl (dancehall rmx)	**GWEN STEFANI**	INTERSCOPE
8	In Ya Face	**EBONY EYES**	TRACKMASTE
9	We Belong 2gether (rmx)	**MARIAH CAREY**	DEFJAM
10	Don't Ya Wish Ya Girlfrind	**BOW WOW** f/Ciera	SONY

LUTHER VANDROSS,

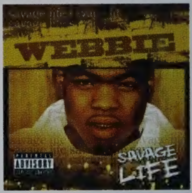
THE ESSENTIAL, - in stores Now



Where do I start? Luther was such a sweet man, and that voice is one of a kind. In a recent TV interview, Luther recalled having dinner with Whitney Houston and upon seeing a rather thin man walk by, Luther commented that is how he wants 2 look. Whitney's reply 2 Luther's weight battle..."but he can't sing". True words Luther, God does not give everybody everything and your gift of voice touched so many lives. For instance, a rather famous DJ friend of mine was very close 2 Luther, and through him a mutual friend (and hot boy) of ours was introduced. Luther and the young lad hit it off, he was flown 2 LA and surrounded by the sweetness that was our Luther. How many wedding vows taken because of Luther? How many babies were made because of Luther? How much R&B was influenced by his style? From commercial jingles 2 his first solo recording (the classic "Never 2 Much"), Luther served up jam after jam. This collection features the incredible "A House Is Not A Home", "Stop 2 Love", "If This World were mine" (with Cheryl Lynn), "I Who Have Nothing" (with Martha Wash) and so much more. Just buy it. Luther is essential in every collection. (11T) (11T).

WEBBIE,

TSAVAGE LIFE, in stores now



If u are a fan of dirty south Style HH, then this is the CD 4 U! Why he is asking another man "Give Me That Pussy" I do not quite know, but the first single of the same title was a huge hit during Sizzle 2005 and is still all over radio (without the pussy, of course). Additional tracks like "Full Of dat Shit", 'Crank It Up" and "Gutta Bitch", "Bad Bitch" and "Pack Dat Shit" should let u know what this CD is about. I aint gonna do a social commentary on this CD...I will just say that if u want some real south car & club tracks (albeit mostly REALly Negative) this CD is 4 u. I give him a sliding scale of T, from 4-7T. 4 because I like some of the tracks and the beats r hot, but they are, on occasion, so blatantly promoting negativity that it is painful. The 7T because my friends that luv south hip-hop love this CD in ALL it's gory glory and don't analyze music they just enjoy it. Someone once said "Ignorance Is Bliss" and I

At the end of each review, T-Pro rates each album by giving T points of 1 thru 10. 10 being Tight/Awesome and 1 being Tired

agree. Sometimes I wish I could just listen 2 a track promoting Gun Violence and not think it made any difference 2 the children hearing it on the radio. Oops, I guess I did do my social commentary(8T)

MARIAH CAREY,

THE EMANCIPATION OF MIMI
, in stores Now

The new single "Shake It Off" is released this month. It's light, but "Get Your Number", "We Belong 2gether Rmx" and "Stay The Night" r my personal faves. It is funny that I luv this CD because her last few CD's annoyed me...she was always running notes (ad-libbing) it was like there was no melody 2 any of her tracks. I think that's why I always like her classic "Breakdown" because she was forced 2 use her beautiful voice 2 sing that melody by Bone Thugz & Harmony. Now in 2005 JD asked her 2 do the same and it works. PS, if u can, find the south rmx of "It's Like That" (very hot). PPS, can somebody email me and tell me why in every performance Mariah has her hair blowing in the wind. She was standing next to 10 people on VH1's "Save The Music" and the only hair moving was hers...amazing...lol(9)

B5,

B5, in stores Now

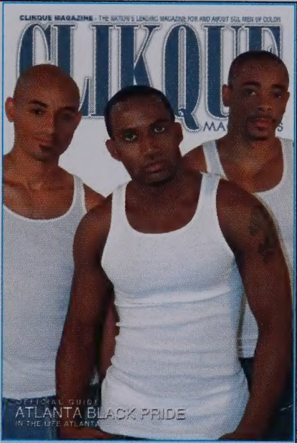
5 Brothers, hot looks and hot voices are making the girls (& boyz) go crazy. Produced by P Ditty, this CD has everything from high energy styled dance- hop 2 super-sweet ballads. The highlights are the down-tempo single "All I Do" and the as of yet unreleased "Dance 4 me'. I also liked "Teachers Pet", Back In Your Arms", Heartbreak" and "No More Games". Considering this is meant 2 be the introductory disc 4 these 5 and not necessarily the strongest work on the planet, it does shine. Why they released "U Got Me" I am not sure, it is NOT the strongest song on the CD...but 2 b fair, Puffy does have a lot going on with his fashion label, so it should be expected the record label might suffer a bit. I was surprised not 2 c them in the top 10 of BET every 5 minutes like B2Gay (b2k) used 2 b. Who is executive producer? Hmmm look up "Payola" in the dictionary! Although I am giving the boyz a 6 for they're first time out, I do anticipate many more CD's from this group. Overall, I enjoyed the disc but I found myself waiting 4 another major catchy tune 2 show up, and it never does. (6T)

FATTY KOO,

HOUSE OF FATTY KOO, in stores now

If it weren't 4 Joshua (pictured) I would not have ever heard of this band. The name just seemed so BET circa 1992 that I was not gonna give 'em a chance. Then I saw this little cutie in the preview on TV and had 2 watch. It was kind of like watching "Making The Band" except everybody actually has talent. Enough talent that Sony Records is giving them the green light 2 showcase their skills and many are. Highlights include "Shake", "Bounce", "Cruise Control" and "Lust". Ok, now back 2 Josh, who at only 15 years of age says his influences are James Brown, Fred Astaire and Michael Jackson. Drawing energy from his current faves of Justin Timberlake and Kanye West, Joshua says he wants 2 do more than just sell records he wants "2 change lives". The BET show, new CD and Tour with band mates Gabrielle, Mayra, Valure, Eddie B and Ron (all under 21) is a great place 2 start. . (7T)

Material to be reviewed in this magazine must be send to: Music Review Department, Clikque Magazine
1001 N Federal Hwy., Suite 365, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009



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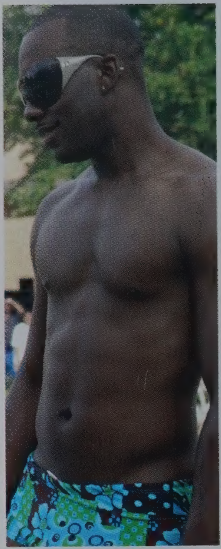
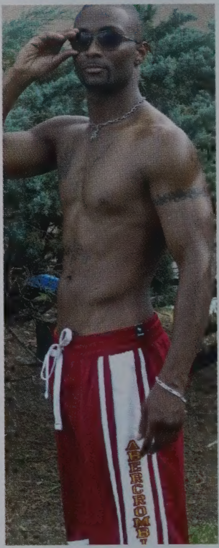
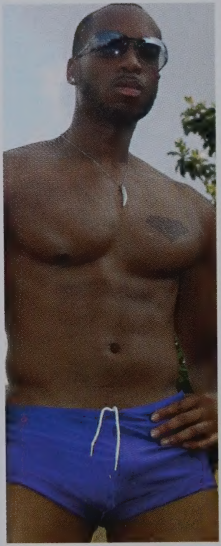
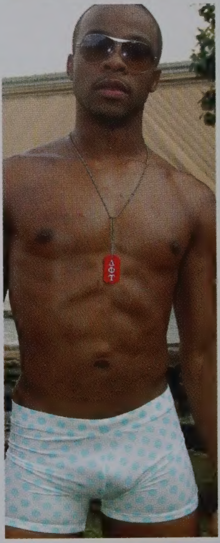
Congrats to Derrick Miles, Sean Dawson, and the team @ Houston Splash for putting on a successful event this past May



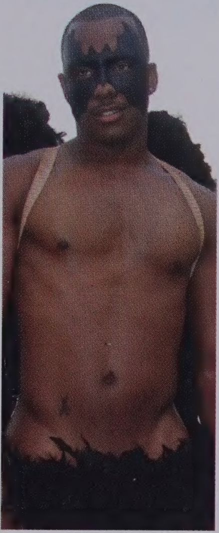


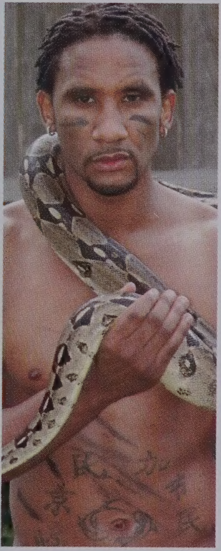


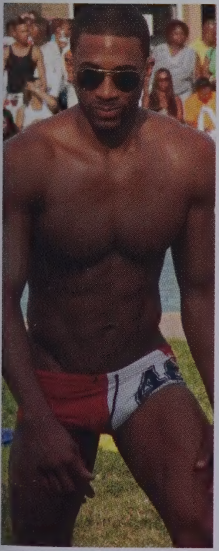


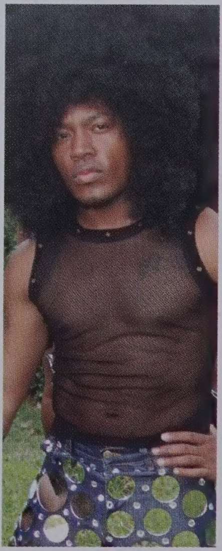
above: Clikque Magazine November 2004 Cover Model, sexy ass Mac stricks a pose for the camera @ Houston Splash pool party & fashion show.

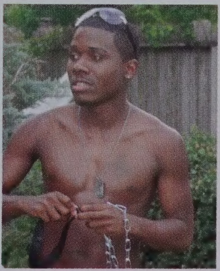
left:
The sexy men of Flavamen Magazine was in the house.











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"On the Low,"

a Short Film by Luther M. Mace, Makes Its Film Festival Premiere

"On the Low" contributes to the new millennium's black gay renaissance. It is a film about two African-American high school boys involved in a clandestine aka "down low" or "DL" relationship.

"On The Low," a short film, explores the emotional consequences of a hush-hush intimate relationship between two African-American high school boys.

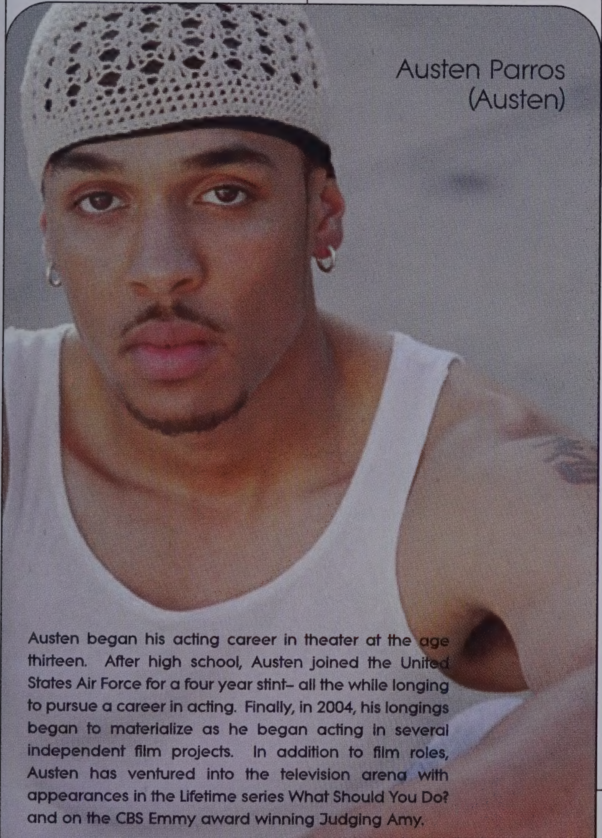
"On The Low" tells the story of a young man, Ty Evans, coming to terms with his sexuality and the inner conflict he experiences. The true extent of Ty's relationship with his classmate, Kevin Banks, begins to trouble him when the boys get into a schoolyard shoving match. As the tension between them escalates, Ty realizes what began as innocent curiosity and experimentation has blossomed into a deeper infatuation. He recognizes that the only way to come to terms with his feelings is to admit to Kevin that he's in love with him.

Kevin & Ty's first time

"On The Low" depicts the cultural phenomenon–"the down low" or "DL"– prevalent in urban communities in which African-American males are intimately involved with both men and women. However, as the title alludes, the homosexual relationship remains a secret. "There's something universal about integrity and self-respect," explains the film's writer-director Luther M. Mace. "Anybody– gay, straight, black, white; male, female– who believes that it's okay to be in a relationship with somebody who refuses to publicly acknowledge them is in for a rude awakening."

This film stars Deondray Gossett ("Sister Act 2"), Delpano Wills ("Dark Town"),

OTL CONTINUES ON PAGE 66


Austen Parros
(Austen)

Austen began his acting career in theater at the age thirteen. After high school, Austen joined the United States Air Force for a four year stint– all the while longing to pursue a career in acting. Finally, in 2004, his longings began to materialize as he began acting in several independent film projects. In addition to film roles, Austen has ventured into the television arena with appearances in the Lifetime series What Should You Do? and on the CBS Emmy award winning Judging Amy.

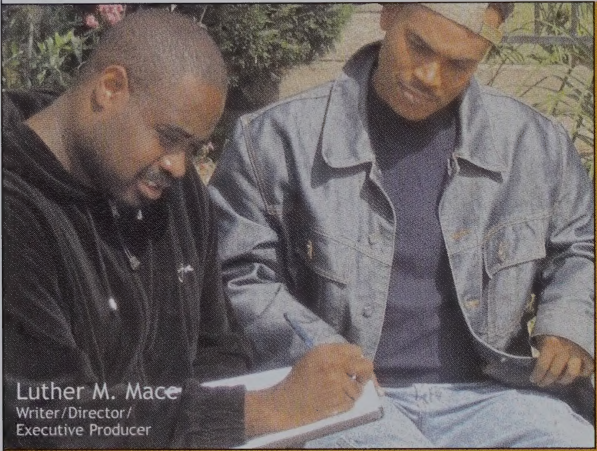
OTL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65

and Tommy Mikal Ford ("Martin," "Harlem Nights"). The short also features newcomers Antoine D'Angelo Lattier, Gene Samuel and Austen Parros.

Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, a hard-knocks area of New York City, Luther Mace knows first hand what it's like to grow up in a machismo environment in which homosexuality is not widely accepted. "I've spent so many years fighting the inevitable because I knew I'd be ostracized by everybody around me," contends Mace. "In fact, this (film) is ripped right out of my personal journal. I know what's like to keep a relationship a secret because other people finding out could have dire emotional consequences."

Deondray Gossett (Ty Evans)

Actor/Writer/Producer/Director: Deondray Gossett has had major experience in front of the camera as well as behind. A classically trained and award-winning actor, Deondray Gossett began his career as a screen, television and theatre actor, having worked with the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Bill Duke, Lauryn Hill, Danny Devito, Steve Gomer (director), and Nathan Lane and guest-starred on series such as Roswell, The Parenthood, and the The Hughleys. He also acted in and lent his voice to the film and soundtrack of the hit musical Sister Act 2. After having enjoyed considerable success in the entertainment industry on screen for over 10 years, he decided to try his hand off screen. Disillusioned with the Hollywood studio machine and limited opportunities for people of color, Deondray was inspired to take matters into his own hands; he partnered with actor/writer/director Quincy LeNear to form 2 Cents Productions. As a writer, Deondray penned the story for the 2 Cents Productions' film Had U and co-directed it with Quincy LeNear. The film went on to win Best Experimental Short Film in Showtime Network's Digital Film Festival. In 2004, Gossett and LeNear completed Of Death and Dying, an emotionally charged short film that deals with coming to terms with one's own mortality.



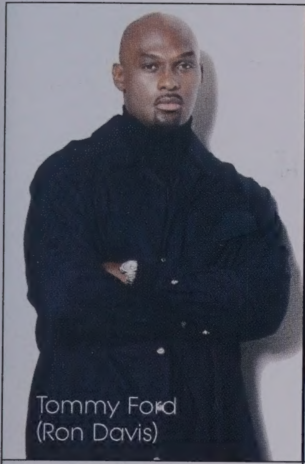
Luther M. Mace
Writer/Director/
Executive Producer

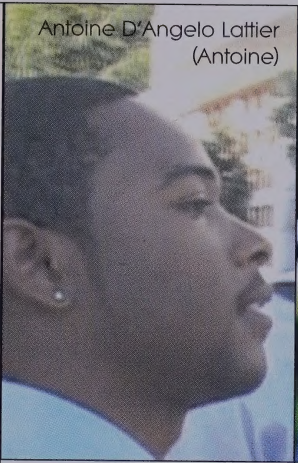
Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, New York, Luther has had a passion for the entertainment biz since he was a young child. Often studying the end credits of his favorite television shows and wondering what each job title entailed. Earning his Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications from Emerson College in 1992, Luther traveled to Los Angeles to pursue his career goals.

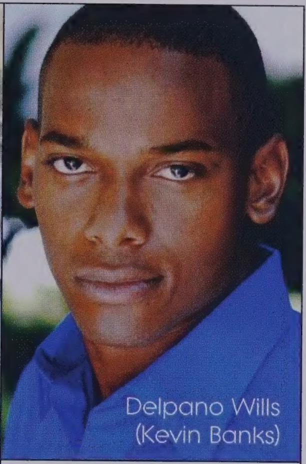
In 1993, Luther landed his first literary agent with an ambitious TV spec script for the now defunct Roseanne television series. In 1996, he was accepted into the prominent David Milch Writing Seminar— an enviable opportunity to further develop his craft as a writer under the tutelage of legendary scribe David Milch. In 1997, Luther went to work for HBO in an administrative capacity in which he absorbed a plethora of knowledge from some of the best and brightest industry minds working in the field of entertainment. Later that year, Luther formed TorchLight Media, a film and television production company committed to developing and producing trailblazing projects for all media.

2003 proved to be a banner year for the budding filmmaker. He was accepted into Independent Filmmakers Project- Los Angeles' celebrated Project: Involve program and his script Love & Marriage received recognition by Sundance by advancing to the quarterfinals of the Screenwriters Lab.

In the latter half of 2003, while attending a seminar honoring the works of David Mamet, Luther was struck by the advice given by the guest of honor in which Mr. Mamet encouraged the attendees to take a more proactive role in their careers by figuring out a way to produce their own work. Shortly afterwards, Luther developed On The Low, his directorial debut, based his personal experience of falling in love for the first time. Contact: Info@torchlightmedia.com


Tommy Ford
(Ron Davis)


Antoine D'Angelo Lattier
(Antoine)


Delpano Wills
(Kevin Banks)

Tommy Ford: His recurring role as the fun-loving father on **UPN's** sitcom **The Parkers** is just another side of the versatile actor who keeps his audience guessing.

Whether playing Tommy on FOX television's comedy hit **Martin** or displaying a totally versatile style on FOX television's controversial drama **New York Undercover** as the cool collective 'Lieutenant **Malcolm Barker**', Tommy Ford is constantly making changes in his career and finding that he will always be successful in any endeavor he chooses to take on.

Although acting is his first love, Ford has successfully directed and produced several plays and is currently attached to three film projects for which he has been chosen to direct.

He has also been involved in numerous theater productions for which he has received great critical acclaim for his directing and acting efforts. Among those productions are Jonin', South of Where We Live, (Drama Logue Award, Image Award nomination), Monsoon Christmas (Drama Logue & Image Award), Living Room (Image Award nomination) and Distant Fires (Drama Logue & Image Award nomination).

As a writer, Ford has followed a long time dream and launched a series of children's books. The first two releases entitled Be Still And Know an Stop The Violence have won the hearts of many adults and childre alike. These imminent classics are designed to promote healthy, spiritual, an non-violent living to guide young people in their effort to becom better people by applying positive principles to daily living.

Tommy has just completed twelve new children's storybooks! These books are filled with beautiful illustrations, positive words of encouragement, and are designed to delight children all over the world. Although Tommy's books are written for children, they are ideal for parents to use as teaching tools. Each book is carefully designed to address a plethora of subject matters, questions, concerns, and curiosities of children. His newly release books are: Hey, Do You Have A Positive Attitude? & I Am Responsible For Me!

Antoine D'Angelo Lattier
(Antoine)
Lauded as a child acting prodigy, Antoine made his first attempts into the performance milieu at the age of twelve while taking center stage in several church theatrical productions. Antoine received formal training while attending Cal State Northridge and Riverside Community College. He continues to develop his passion for his craft by studying the distinguished works of fellow thespians Denzel Washington, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and Jamie Foxx among others. At twenty one, he began to pursue his dreams professionally by landing a role at his first industry audition, ON THE LOW. Antoine stays grounded by keeping his life motto simple: "Put God first and keep your family close."

Gene Samuel (Trevor)
A student of the prestigious TVI Actors Studio, Gene made his feature film debut in the 2002 horror flick, Dark Town. The next year, he joined the small, but elite company of actors to portray slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King in a documentary commemorating forty years of Dr. King's famous I HAVE A DREAM speech. A current resident of Las Vegas, Gene continues to flex his dexterous acting muscles by performing in local theater while frequenting Los Angeles for roles in all media.

Delpano Wills (Kevin Banks)
Born in the US, Delpano Wills spent many of his formative years in West Africa learning the culture and customs of the African natives. Returning to the states for his adolescence, Del continued to exploit his intellectual curiosity by attending medical school upon which time he got bitten by the acting bug. In 2002, he completed production in his first feature film, Dark Town.

PREMIERES

On The Low is currently premiering at various location throughout the country. For location dates and times, visit the official website: **http://www.onthelowmovie.com**

ARTICLE BY JAMES EARL HARDY

LOOKING FOR LUTHER

Luther Vandross was a Same Gender Loving man.

The evidence? It's not that he worshiped divas like Aretha, Diana, Patti, and Dionne. Or that he was never linked romantically to a woman. Or that he refused to confirm or deny that he was one of the Children.

I've been listening to it on record, cassette tape, CD, and now my iPod for the last quarter century.

I got my first clue the very first time I heard his voice. The year: 1980. In the very first line of Change's "The Glow of Love" he sings:

> Flowers bloom, mornin' dew
> and the beauty seems to say
> It's a pleasure when you treasure
> all that's new and true and gay

"Does he mean gay . . . or gay?" I thought to myself. He answered this question the following year with his debut, Never Too Much. I noticed that "Sugar and Spice (I Found Me A Girl)" and "She's A Super Lady" were sandwiched between non-gender specific songs, such as the title tune, the landmark remake "A House Is Not A Home," and the rather scandalous "I've Been Working," which is basically the confession of a ho':

> I don't know why the world loves
> a forever love affair
> (I'm just a freak)
> Who loves a one night thing oh yeah
> (A one night all night)
> And after a long day of work
> all I wanna do is play around
> So I'm going out
> For a little bit of love
> And a whole lotta getting down
>
> I've been working
> I've been all-day working
> And I need somebody
> Said I need some
> I need some love tonight

Given that the gluttonous, hedonistic seventies were over and something called GRID was decimating gay men, this was a rather bold track for him to cut. And he doesn't say who that somebody he plans to bang is.

This pattern would be repeated in the future. For every "She Won't Talk To Me," "Lady, Lady," and "She Don't Mind," there was "Any Love," "Isn't There Someone," and "So Amazing." In fact, check his repertoire and you'll see that the object of his affection usually isn't identified as female. And sometimes the hint he dropped wasn't so subtle. He tackled "Ki=. lling Me SoftlyWith His Song" as is, knowing full well that those whispers about being gay would grow louder. With "Your Secret Love," those whispers became shouts, since the song also works as a on-the-low/down-low anthem. On "Religion," he acknowledged the hell we go through when our families can't accept us.

Then there's "Hit It Again," a title that speaks for itself. How many straight people do you know use that phrase? After hearing it, a friend of mine joked: "Luther must be an Enrique Cruz fan!" (Cruz runs a Bla-tino gay porn company.) And, is it just a coincidence that the guest rap is performed by Queen "I am not a lesbian" Latifah?

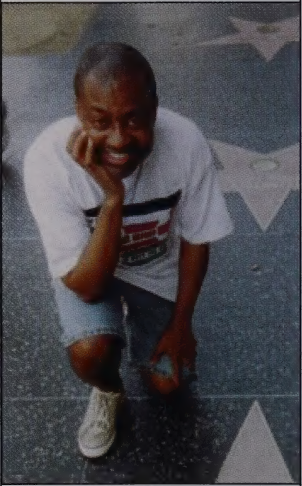
He also passed on to others selections he probably wished he could've recorded himself. For Dionne, it was "Got A Date" (Got a date, can't be late, ooh my my, with my guy, I can't wait); for Aretha, "Every Girl (Wants My Guy)" (They ain't never gonna get him...why can't they see, that the boy loves me?).

Luther has been addressing us, that other audience the music industry ignores, for decades. Thanks to Luther, I didn't have to substitute a "he" or 'him' in my favorite tunes; I could claim them as my own. This is why his repertoire became the soundtrack for my life, as well as the couple I created in the B-Boy Blues series, Mitchell (aka Little Bit) and Raheim (aka Pooquie).

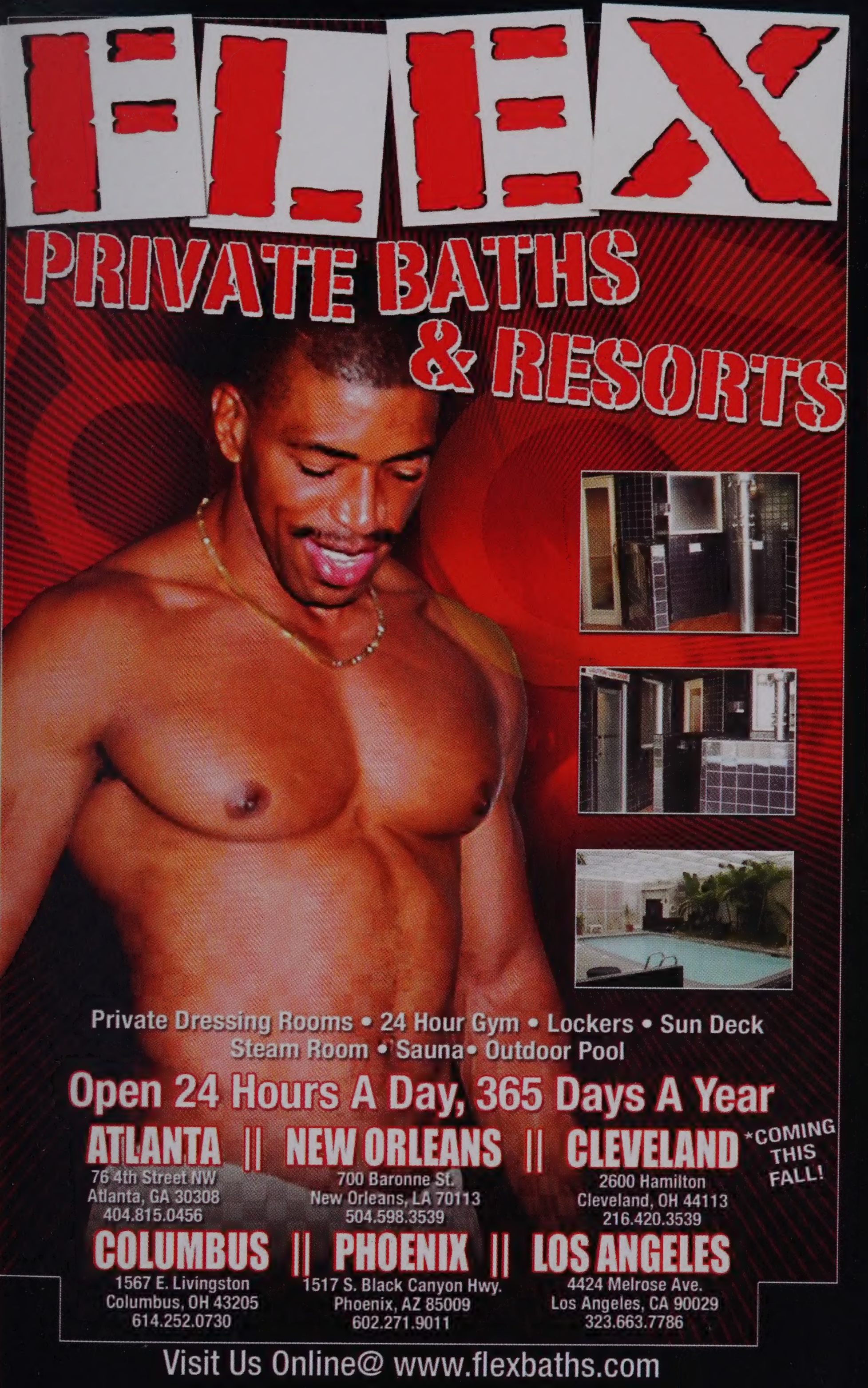
His efforts to musically state what he couldn't verbally may have been a bit too undercover for those debating how to remember him. Some believe it didn't and doesn't matter if Luther was gay (and, not surprisingly, they are usually heterosexual). Most disturbing are the comments from some African American SGL men who argue that, since Luther remained silent about his love life, we shouldn't claim him. But while Luther may not have been out in the classic sense, he didn't lead a "heterosexual lifestyle": He never declared that he was straight and only played Romeo to an invisible Juliet in the studio and on stage because of the strict heterosexist codes of the industry.

And while he could've officially come out since he'd already achieved legendary status, everyone doesn't want to be, can be, or has to be a spokesperson or activist. Instead of dismissing him for what he didn't represent, we should honor him for what he did. In addition to becoming the premiere soul balladeer of our time, ushering in the "Quiet Storm" format on Black radio, and keeping romance alive in pop music (and, in the process, schooling straight folks on the ways of love), he gave us music that we could sing to and for each other ("Here & Now" can be spun at both hetero and SGL weddings). He could only give what he could -- and what he did give, I am so thankful for.

He never said it. But, sometimes, he did sing it.



James Earl Hardy is the author of A House Is Not A Home, the sixth and final title in the bestselling B-Boy Blues series. He can be reached at jeh@jamesearlhardy.com.



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*COMING THIS FALL!

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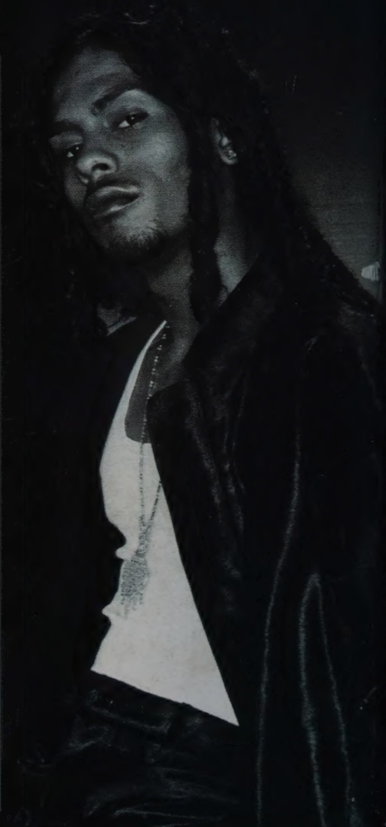
The Weekly Line Up >>>



MONDAYS
Variety Monday
$300 Cash prize given away each & every Monday night. Showcase your talent: Sing, Dance, Rap, Spoken Word, Poetry. A different comedian every Monday. Hosted by Sylvester "Sly" Carter from BET Comic View
Show time @1AM

TUESDAYS
New-Comer Talent Show
Hosted by Deidra, plus Dee Franklin Thomas representing the *Girls* & Yours truly "Lady T"

WEDNESDAYS
Mini-Ball
Hosted by Andre Givenchy

THURSDAYS
Thirsty Thursdays
Sexy Male Dancers, Music by Dj JFK (Hip-Hop) & Dj Goose (House).
FREE 'til 11:30pm then $5 All Night.
Doors open @10pm
$1 draft beer & FREE. Well drinks every Thursday. Restaurant open.

FRIDAYS
Blackout Friday
(FREE 'til 11:30pm)
Hot male dancers every Friday night.
Music by Dj JFK (Hip-Hop) &
Dj Goose (House)
Doors open @10pm.
Restaurant open.

SATURDAYS
Milkshake Saturdays
FREE 'til 11:30pm
"My Milkshke brings all the boys to the Bar"
Music by Dj JFK (Hip-Hop) &
Dj Goose (House).
Doors open @10pm.
Restaurant open.

SUNDAYS
Late Night After Party
FREE admission 'til 2am,
Doors open @9pm.
Dj JFK (Hip-Hop, R&B, House).
Drink specials & Sexy male dancers every Sunday.

4 Big Rooms • 3 Levels • 2 Dance Floors = 1 HUGE ASS CLUB!

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